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SPEECHES AND TOASTS

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INCLUDING :

HINTS TO SPEAKERS

AND

MODEL EXAMPLES FOR ALL OCCASIONS.

NEW EDITION.

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SPEECHES AND TOASTS.

HOW TO MAKE AND PROPOSE THEM.

HINTS TO SPEAKERS.

I.—OF ORATORY IN GENERAL.

ALTHOUGH this handbook is limited in its scope more particularly to social functions, a few remarks upon oratory in general are appropriate to it. For oratory is nothing more nor less than the art of public speaking, and while some natural aptitude must be presupposed in those who practise the art, eminence in it can only be achieved by its sedulous cultivation.

How potent a factor in civilisation oratory has been it is difficult to estimate correctly. Civilisation, according to Taine, is synonymous with progress, and tyranny, the arch-enemy of progress, ever seeks to stifle liberty of speech ; thus has arisen the old saying that oratory and liberty are twins, and the great orator may as truly serve his country as the great legislator or the great soldier.

In a world where conservation of energy is so tremendous a fact, no speech can fail to have effect, whether for good or evil, and the speech that is compelled by purity of motive and sincerity of conviction, and, in addition, is delivered with consummate art, is a motive force of which the ultimate results can never be definitively gauged. It is the purity of motive that matters, for "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things : and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things." It was because of His accurate perception of the far-

reaching effect of speech that Christ delivered himself of that solemn warning as to the responsibility attaching to those who give utterance to it : " Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." What is true of the least, is true of the greatest. The greater the power bestowed upon a man to sway his fellows by his spoken words, the greater his responsibility for the use to which he puts his gifts. There is no need to elaborate the point, which has only to be stated to be accepted. Oratory more than any other art incites to action, and if the art be cultivated with that object in view, no pains spent upon it are too laborious, considering the enormous power which it gives to its possessor.

The first essential condition, therefore, precedent to the delivery of any oration, is that the orator should have something to say ; and, words having been given to man for the purpose of communicating thought, an oration will be good or bad in proportion as it gives clear expression to the ideas intended to be conveyed by the speaker to his audience.

From this it is easy to deduce the qualifications which a speaker must possess if he would successfully promulgate the opinions which are clear and convincing to his own mind : he must have a command of language with an exact appreciation of the value of words : that he can get by reading ; he must have a facility of presenting his thoughts in logical sequence, so that his arguments are cumulative and in the sum convincing : that he can acquire by writing ; he must have clearness of utterance, coupled with deliberation of manner and entire self-possession : that he can acquire by conversation and reading aloud. All these three things may be achieved by patient study and intelligent application. The crowning quality which differentiates the supremely great orator from the merely competent one, is another matter ; this quality, to use a word in vogue at the moment, is *εκστασις*, and it is not to be acquired in the schools ; it is the little touch of genius which inspires life into the marble of the sculptor, into the painted canvas of the artist, into the written words of

the author, and into the spoken words of the orator ; but, although it cannot be taught in the schools, it is bestowed upon the really earnest man much more commonly than is supposed, for something of it is implied in the sincerity of the conviction that compels the individual to give utterance to the thoughts that are in him.

Earnestness is infectious, and the orator, who at the beginning of his speech convinces his audience that he is himself in earnest, has gone a long way towards enchaining their attention and winning their suffrages. The arts which he can acquire by study and by practice will do as much as is humanly possible of the rest. The mysterious power which great orators undoubtedly exercise over their hearers, and which so many people endeavour to explain by such phrases as nerve-force, personal magnetism, and the rest, is, if reduced to its simplest terms, little more than the natural result of mere earnestness.

Scientifically, oratory is divided into several categories. There is the didactic, intended primarily to convey instruction ; the deliberative, which is primarily the oratory of Parliament and other conferences ; the forensic, consisting primarily in argument before a court ; and the demonstrative, or epideictic, which may be sub-divided into the eulogy, the inaugural and anniversary address, the homiletic address or sermon, and, finally, the after-dinner speech. For all these various categories the essential qualifications of the orator are as enumerated above, and it must be left to his discretion to incorporate in his address so much of imagination, colour, wit, humour, pathos, and the like, as may seem advisable according to the nature of his audience ; for audiences may be broadly divided into two classes, the sentimental and the critical, and the method of treatment of a subject appropriate to the one would be inappropriate to the other.

II.—OF MAKING SPEECHES.

(a) PREPARATION.

MASTERY of the subject is the first consideration in making speeches. Whatever object the orator has in view—whether it be to convey instruction, to sway an assembly, to obtain a conviction, to praise an individual, to expound a text, or to propose a toast—the first essential is that he should know his facts. "Clear thought is the foundation of persuasive speech," and clear thought can only be obtained by exact knowledge.

Having chosen, or been given, his subject, the orator's first duty, therefore, is to crystallise it into a single proposition, and group round that proposition all the facts and arguments he can possibly collect. This part of his work cannot be too elaborate. He must read everything he can find bearing upon the subject. An excellent plan is to make notes of all relevant facts and arguments and write these down on slips of paper cut to a uniform size, adopting Eustace Miles's method of having a separate card for every note—one idea, one card; these notes may be allowed to accumulate indefinitely, and can periodically be arranged in such an order that all the notes relating to the several passages in the projected speech will come together and form a skeleton of the finished address.

Having collected his materials, the student will next set to work to analyse his notes and fit them all together in logical sequence so that the original skeleton becomes a perfectly balanced framework; on to this he will attach in their several proper places all his facts, and figures, and illustrations, discarding such notes as he may now regard as immaterial or unimportant. When the speech is argumentative, and intended to be delivered to a critical audience, he will be well advised not to eliminate too much. By the time he has mastered his subject, he may easily make the mistake of thinking that his hearers have done the same thing as thoroughly as himself, and fail in his object by assuming that they possess greater knowledge than is actually the case. An argument may be so con-

densed as to become almost unintelligible on a single hearing, and consequently the speaker, while avoiding prolixity and repetition, should avoid the opposite danger of inadequate elaboration, remembering always that the burden of proof rests upon himself and that his task is only done when he has satisfied the last objector.

A speech consists of four parts : exordium, discussion, conclusion, and peroration. The first prepares the way for the second ; the second must be followed, naturally and inevitably, by the third ; the third is emphasised and rounded off by the last. It is to the second and third that the student must address himself particularly in the process of preparation here suggested, for they are the body of the speech ; the extremities may be treated rather differently. The exordium, for instance, may or may not contain an enunciation of the proposition which the speaker proposes to establish ; it may be personal in tone, intended to conciliate an audience which the speaker has reason to believe is hostile to his views ; it may be several other things ; but it should always bear directly upon the matter in hand, and be short and to the point ; it is the speaker's introduction of himself to his audience, and ought to be " happy." In the same way, the peroration may contain a direct reference to the original proposition, may be apologetic or denunciatory, rhetorical or emotional. Only practice can enable a man to decide how he shall conclude any speech ; there is an art in " leaving off," and sometimes only a natural artistic instinct can tell a man when and how to stop. No direct advice can be given upon these heads ; but in preparing a speech the exordium and peroration may be left to the last, and in delivering the speech something of the exordium may be left to depend upon the conditions found to exist at the actual moment.

Having mastered his subject and " built " his speech, the student should next reduce it to actual words, and his safest and wisest plan will be to write it out at length. No really great oration has ever yet been delivered *ex tempore*. In this connection, Lord Brougham, no mean authority, has said : " This leads me to remark that, though speaking without writing beforehand is very well till the habit of easy speaking is acquired, yet after that

he can never write too much ; this is quite clear. It is laborious, no doubt, and it is more difficult beyond comparison than speaking off-hand ; but it is necessary to perfect oratory, and, at any rate, it is necessary to acquire the habit of correct diction. But I go further, and say even to the end of a man's life he must prepare word for word most of his finer passages."

The written speech thus perfected serves a double purpose : it is available for the speaker to read from if the subject is of first-class importance and he fears that from nervousness, or any other cause, he may lose the thread of his argument and mar his prospects by omitting any essential points ; it is also available for him to study : he can commit it word for word to memory and repeat it textually, so that his address—however it may be delivered—is, at any rate, a finished dissertation upon the subject at issue. On both these counts a word of warning is necessary. An address read from copy can never have the same convincing effect as an oration delivered with an air of spontaneity ; the delivery of an oration must be supplemented with animation of manner and appropriate gesture, and a man who reads his address is hampered by the necessity of holding his manuscript and directing his attention to that instead of to the audience ; and, on the other hand, the man who finds it necessary to learn his speech by heart and deliver it textually from memory runs some risk of seeming to be repeating a lesson and of delivering it too mechanically and, probably, with too great rapidity of utterance.

There can be no doubt, however, that the exercise of writing out in full the speech to be delivered does impress its phraseology with singular distinctness on the mind, and it should always be done until the habit of easy speaking has been acquired and the orator can rely upon the inspiration of the moment to clothe in appropriate words the arguments he has previously considered and noted down. From the complete copy, moreover, a summary can be prepared, covering perhaps only a few sheets of note-paper, which the most practised orator can advantageously employ to refresh his memory when he is actually called upon to rise and face his audience.

Young speakers should never omit to write out and memorise their speeches, and they should further rehearse them privately beforehand to some friendly critic, who can advise them on the manner of delivery and give many valuable hints as to which points should be emphasised and which may be less forcibly driven home.

This, then, is an adequate, if brief, indication of the course to be pursued in the preparation of a speech. Study the subject, frame the argument, select the materials, write the speech, memorise it textually : this done, no man need fear to rise to his feet before the largest audience. At least, he will have paid them the compliment of taking the utmost possible pains to have something intelligent and lucid to offer to their consideration.

(b) DELIVERY.

With regard to the actual delivery of a speech, only a few general hints can be given in the limited space available here. There are many books upon elocution to which reference may be profitably made, and it may be remarked, incidentally, that not enough attention is paid nowadays to elocution as part of the education of cultured people. It is a regrettable fact that insufficient stress is laid upon the importance of really good reading and speaking as part of a gentleman's equipment for the world.

Proper management of the breath is the fundamental necessity in the effective use of the voice. The nostrils are the proper organs of breathing, and abdominal breathing is the proper method ; it has been laid down as a definition that "the criterion of correct inspiration is an increase of the size of the abdomen and of the lower part of the chest ; whoever draws in the abdomen and raises the upper part of the chest breathes wrongly." For public speaking the important thing is to take in as much breath as possible, inflate the lungs to their fullest extent with air, and never exhaust them, taking fresh inspirations whenever and wherever opportunity offers.

Some control of the breath having been acquired, the next point to consider is its application to the vocal organs in producing speech. The vowels and consonants are

elementary sounds of which, when blended into complex forms, words are compounded. "Pronunciation" is simply giving utterance to words, and when clearly and effectively done the vocal act is defined as correct articulation; when many words are spoken successively, with due regard to their emphasis and inflection, the speaker is said to have flexibility of utterance. Words are formed by the action of the tongue, lips, and nose, and consequently the sounds should be articulated by the organs of the mouth, not by those of the throat. To acquire just articulation every word should be delivered perfectly finished; they should not be hurried over nor run one into another, nor should they be prolonged or drawled. When all the vocal apparatus is subordinated to the will so completely that each organ responds to the production of any tone or variation of sound, "flexibility" has been acquired.

An admirable exercise in articulation has been suggested by one writer on the subject. After describing various exercises, he says: "It would be advantageous to take any piece and read it backwards. I do not know of any practice more calculated to produce clear articulation than this. In performing it, great care should be taken to let each word stand out, above and apart from its neighbours. It will, also, be necessary that each letter in the syllable and each syllable in the word should be distinctly heard. And here we may lay down a very good rule—let every letter and every syllable be distinctly heard, unless there be some good reason against it. Take care to enunciate each word as loud as conveniently possible. Breathe between each word. It would be a good practice, and would vary the above, to elongate the syllables as much as possible, and also to read in several keys, or, in other words, with the different kinds of pitch of which the voice is capable."

We quote this because a single experiment will convince any honest person that his ordinary articulation is much more faulty than he would previously have believed, and whatever else a sympathetic audience may condone in the way of harshness of voice, or stiffness of gesture, they will not condone failure in articulation. If a speaker will not take the trouble to make every word he says clear, he will forfeit the sympathy, and very speedily the patience,

of his hearers and be compelled to make room for some more intelligible person.

It should further not be forgotten that clear articulation goes a long way to compensate for weakness of voice, and that sense can be conveyed with a minimum of sound. If the audience are interested at the outset, they bring their eyes as well as their ears into use, and catch every word that is perfectly articulated ; it is on this principle that deaf-mutes are taught lip-reading. No pains, therefore, should be spared to make the articulation precise and accurate.

For the rest, the would-be orator must develop the natural tone of his voice in which he is accustomed to speak, and which he can vary and make orotund, guttural, hollow, or even falsetto, according to the nature of the passage to be spoken. No theoretical remarks can be of much service here ; only observation of living models coupled with patient practice can avail. He must further consider the question of " time," the rapidity with which he will give utterance to his words ; in this case again he must be guided by the paramount necessity of clear articulation, with which neither speed nor anything else must be allowed to interfere ; something of the " time " will be indicated by the nature of the passage to be spoken, an impassioned appeal or a fiery denunciation demanding greater rapidity than a solemn exhortation or a critical analysis of the arguments of the other side. Finally, he must pay due regard to proper phrasing and grouping of his words : this has been well defined as " vocal punctuation," and consists in arranging the words of discourse into groups so as to convey their actual meaning, and in separating them by the use of pauses in utterance.

To sum up, anyone with a very little preliminary instruction can learn to control and economise his breath, can acquire nice articulation, and practise effective gesticulation ; the rest he can learn best by listening and attending to such good speakers as he may have the opportunity of hearing. By taking pains he may soon hope to become a competent speaker himself. That the trouble to which he may have been put will be well compensated by the event is a self-evident proposition.

III.—OF SOME COMMON ERRORS IN SPEECH.

PRONUNCIATION is an important matter, the difference between correct and incorrect pronunciation marking the difference between an educated and an uneducated man. In ordinary conversation the most common errors are due to carelessness, to a slipshod speech, which is tolerated for no apparent reason, and which many parents only check in their children when it degenerates into such glaring faults as omission of the aspirate or its insertion in places where it should not be. In public speaking, however, correct pronunciation is essential, because failure in this particular exposes the orator to public ridicule.

The rule is that, unless there is some explicit reason to the contrary, every letter and every syllable in a word should be heard, and upon the rule too much insistence cannot be laid, for it is to its breach that all the common errors in speech may be traced. It is unnecessary to refer here to variations in pronunciations so localised as to be known as dialect ; outside these altogether there are a few words in which custom, or what is technically known as *usus loquendi*, justifies alternative pronunciations of the same word.

Thus experts disagree as to whether the aspirate should or should not be sounded in *herb*, *hostler*, *hotel*, *humour*, and *humble*, but all agree in omitting it from *heir*, *heiress*, *honest*, *honour*, and *hour*. It should not be omitted when it follows the letter *w*, but should be given its due value. *What*, *when*, *where*, and *whither* are not the same either in sound or sense as *wot*, *wen*, *were*, and *with*er ; yet many people make no difference in their pronunciation, although they would never think of pronouncing *who* as if it were the exact equivalent of *woo*. But while in the few cases given above, the letter *h* is not sounded, there are no exceptions to the rule that it must never be sounded where it does not exist.

In the case of *either* and *neither* again, there seems to be an equal balance of authority for pronouncing the *ei* as if it were *ee* or *i*.

R is another letter which is frequently abused. It should

never be sounded where it has no place. Yet this is often done, especially when a word ending with a vowel is followed by one beginning with a vowel: "the idea rof such a thing" and "I saw ra man" are common errors in speech which must be avoided. In what is known as lispings, *w* is sometimes substituted for *r*, so that "around the rugged rocks" becomes "awound the wugged wocks"; this has come to be looked upon as an affectation, but, while it is more strictly speaking an affection, it is a curable one, only requiring a little care and attention to disappear.

A few other cases may be profitably given.

Water is boiled in a kettle, not in a kittle; one gets things from shops, does not git them; and people catch fish, do not ketch them. *G* is often ill-treated, sometimes being clipped, so that going becomes goin, dancing dancin, and the like; sometimes being converted into *k*, so that anything becomes anythink, nothing nothink, and so on. Another fault, more common, perhaps, in singing than in speaking, is the sounding of the letter *n* before giving utterance to vowel sounds; this is due to failure in "attack" and can be overcome by a little watchfulness. Pillar and pillow, principle and principal, necks and next differ in sound as they do in sense; and, finally, many such words as visible, hypocrisy, gospel, goodness, worship, spirit, certain, patience, and others, are marred by having the *n* sound introduced in place of the vowel sounds proper to them respectively, so that visible becomes visubble, worship worshup, spirit spirrut, and so on.

If the one rule for pronunciation be observed, and the very few exceptions to it be learned separately, the orator will be safe from the taunts of those who, having no fault to find with his matter, are perforce obliged to direct their criticism to his manner; and for purposes of ordinary conversation as well, precise and accurate pronunciation should be sedulously cultivated.

IV.—OF AFTER-DINNER SPEAKING.

THE after-dinner speech is on a somewhat different footing from other speeches, and must be briefly dealt with apart from the others. Very broadly, this class of oratory may be divided into two classes : there is the speech delivered in proposing a toast and the speech delivered in response ; it will be seen at once that this rough classification opens up somewhat different possibilities ; the former may be entertaining and light in tone, or eulogistic and deliberately considered ; among those which are formally eulogistic are the loyal toasts, comprising, since the accession of King Edward VII., the toasts of " The King " and " Queen Alexandra, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family " ; it is difficult to imagine that anything new or original can be devised in the matter for these formal speeches, but much may be done by a happy knack of expression to give them freshness and spontaneity. When the banquet is given in aid of some charity more scope is given to the speaker, inasmuch as, without encroaching upon the subject matter of the toast of the evening, he may easily and appropriately make reference to the direct interest of the Royal Family in all charitable matters, an interest, it may be remarked, which has always been particular instead of general ; unless some member of the Royal Family is present, no response is made to these toasts.

The other complimentary toasts which may be in order on any given occasion, such as the Services, His Majesty's Judges or Ministers, or the Bishops and Clergy of all denominations, while still being formally eulogistic, offer greater opportunities to the speaker from the actual nature of their subject, and care should be taken to direct the speech into such a channel as will give it some personal application to the gentlemen who may severally be called upon to reply.

At annual banquets the toast of the evening is the institution, the regiment, or the firm concerned, and the speech delivered in proposing the toast should always be

planned upon a scale commensurate with the importance of the subject ; it may refer to the history of the institution, to the place it occupies in the social system, to its method of administration, or to several other aspects of the subject. At banquets given in honour of some particular individual, the toast of the evening is " Our guest," and the speech will, of course, be essentially eulogistic, referring primarily to the events which have directly led to the payment of such a compliment as a banquet in his honour, and, secondarily, to the general career of the individual thus distinguished. In all these cases the speech must be carefully considered and deliberately delivered, for while there is no reason why it should not be happily phrased, and every reason why it should not be heavy, it is intended, primarily, to pay a tribute to the individual honoured, and not primarily to entertain or amuse the general company. Purely social toasts such as those proposed at sporting dinners, at weddings, and similar occasions, lend themselves to different treatment, and should aim at being light and entertaining.

What has been said of speeches delivered in proposing these toasts applies, with the necessary modifications, to speeches delivered in response. The art of after-dinner speaking lies principally in adapting one's remarks to the audience, remembering always that there is less of formality on the occasion of a banquet than appertains to orations uttered elsewhere.

It was suggested above, in the section dealing with the preparation of speeches, that inexperienced orators might make the mistake of assuming too much knowledge of the subject on the part of the audience, and consequently of cutting their speeches too short. This suggestion must not be taken as applying to after-dinner speeches. Dr. Lee, of John Hopkins University, in his work, " Principles of Public Speaking," deals with the after-dinner speech, and enumerates the few definite characteristics it should possess.

" First," he says, " it should be brief. Whatever points it makes must glitter like steel and sparkle like the diamond. Wit is also essential, and pathos and fancy should have a place in the scheme. In short, the after-dinner speech,

requiring ten minutes for delivery, needs as careful preparation as the expository address that is designed to occupy an hour in utterance. Nothing should be left to the inspiration of the moment, for the chances are that the banquet room will not have a peg upon which to hang an idea. Not only should the theme be discreetly chosen, but it should be thought out and elaborated until every sentence is clear, and the turn of every word provided for. Let nothing be neglected. Even the anecdotes to be related should be put into the choicest language, and when the speaker begins he should have about him the self-consciousness of ready utterance."

Probably this is as good a description of what such a speech should be as can be given in the space of a paragraph. With regard to the question of preparation, the general opinion will probably be in favour of Dr. Lee's assertion that nothing should be left to the inspiration of the moment, for the number of speakers who can rely upon finding the happy thought and the apt phrase at the critical moment is not large. But, however careful the preparation may be, there are occasions when it may prove to have been wasted. It not infrequently happens that two, or even three, speakers may be called upon to respond to a given toast, and many people must have had the distressing experience of finding their choicest ideas, and even their happiest phrases, anticipated. In such a case there is, of course, no other way open to them but to trust to their native wit and readiness to save the situation.

Frank confession of the fact that the speaker has been anticipated, made in a humorous manner, has before now met with the best sort of reception, and a good memory for anecdotes, apposite or inapposite, is an invaluable possession. Good humour, perfect tact, and a delicacy of feeling that makes one aware instinctively of the general susceptibilities of one's audience, are perhaps the other attributes that go to make a good after-dinner speaker. What has already been said of delivery and clearness of articulation applies, of course, to post-prandial as to all other orations; but with certain obvious reservations it may be said generally that the manner is more important than the matter of an after-dinner speech.

In the following pages will be found speeches and toasts suitable for all sorts of occasions ; they are put forward as outline drawings, from which the beginner may see how to frame the speech which he may be called upon to make in similar situations ; it is not intended that they should be learned by heart and delivered textually ; but, properly studied, they may be profitably used as the basis for original orations ; at any rate, no one who has so studied them need be quite at a loss for something to say, however suddenly and unexpectedly he may be called upon to propose a toast or make a speech in reply.

H. C. M.

SECTION I.

ROYAL PERSONAGES AND PATRIOTIC TOASTS.

THE KING—QUEEN ALEXANDRA, THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS
OF WALES, AND THE REST OF THE ROYAL FAMILY—
THE SERVICES, ETC.

I.—THE KING. [*Proposed by the Chairman.*]
Gentlemen, the King !—

II.—THE KING. [*Proposed by the Chairman.*]

Your Royal Highnesses, my Lords, and Gentlemen,*—

* This address, of course, varies with the company addressed.

My first duty is to call upon you to drink to the health of His Majesty the King. I should like to confine my words to the time-honoured formula, "Gentlemen, the King," being confident that lack of originality in proposing this toast would not be construed as lack of loyalty or sincerity on the part of any chairman. The formula, indeed, conjures up an atmosphere peculiarly British. Wherever two or three Britons are gathered together, the utterance of those simple words recalls their thoughts to their splendid heritage as sons of the greatest Empire the world has ever known—the greatest, not only in its illimitable extent, but in its intention and efficacy to afford free, just, and adaptable government to all whose privilege it is to come beneath its sway. Of that great Empire, His Majesty is the centre upon whom all its splendours are focussed, and from whom all its honours radiate. He is the symbol and the personification of the Imperial idea. In his honour, as such, I call upon you now to raise your glasses. The King, God bless him !

III.—THE KING. [*Proposed by the Chairman.*]

My Lords and Gentlemen,—

The first toast which it is my duty and privilege to put before you this evening is one which, I am sure, all present will cordially unite with me in drinking—I mean the health of His Majesty the King. Time would fail me were I to attempt to enumerate the many claims His Majesty has upon our hearts as individuals and upon our loyal attachment as subjects. No matter in what part of the Empire this toast is proposed, it ever meets with a sincere and warm response, and here I rely upon its receiving most hearty recognition. Gentlemen, I beg to give you the health of His Majesty the King; long may he reign over us.

IV.—THE KING. [*Proposed by the Chairman at a Charity Dinner.*]

[Ladies and] Gentlemen,—

Before we proceed to the business of the evening I must request you to drink to the health of His Majesty the King [who has been graciously pleased to permit us to inscribe his name at the head of our list of Patrons. We are highly sensible of the honour thus conferred upon us, and I am sure you will all concur with me in respectfully thanking His Majesty for his condescension]. When, in the future, historians are engaged in studying the working of the Monarchical system in the United Kingdoms since the accession of the late Queen Victoria, the characteristic that will most forcibly arrest their attention will surely be the thoroughness with which it has associated itself with all charitable and philanthropic enterprises. This association has been shared by all members of the Royal House, but is most completely instanced, perhaps, in the foundation of what is now known as King Edward's Hospital Fund, established to commemorate his Royal Mother's Diamond Jubilee, and the investigation, at the King's personal instance, on permanent lines, into the cause and cure of phthisis. I need not dwell at length upon the point. In all matters appertaining to the material comfort and well-being of his poorer subjects, their proper housing in health and their proper treatment in sickness, King Edward sets an example to the world. Gentlemen, I request you to drink the health of His Majesty the King.

V.—THE KING. [*Proposed by the Chairman at a Public Dinner.*]

My Lords and Gentlemen,—

The first toast which I have to propose to you this evening is the health of His Majesty the King. The diffidence that one may habitually feel in proposing any toast at all is diminished when one is called upon to refer to His Majesty, because he presents so familiar and welcome a topic, with so many varied aspects from which to approach it. He has, indeed, identified himself with the life of the nation with singular completeness. A keen soldier, an enthusiastic yachtsman, a staunch upholder of the best traditions of the turf, he appeals to the instincts of a nation that has always been to the front in the manly exercises which contribute so largely to success in the international struggle for supremacy. By his tact and geniality, which he yet has never allowed to derogate from the dignity of his great position, he has contributed to the maintenance of friendly relations with foreign powers on more than one occasion, when those relations were imperilled by the heat of popular sentiment. He has a practical knowledge at first hand of many social and economic problems, and has served with distinction on more than one Royal Commission. By his tastes and personal qualifications, as well as by his birth, he is a fit occupant for the exalted position of sovereign head of the Empire. This much, and much more, may be said without any suggestion of false adulation or time-serving sycophancy, and I call upon you with confidence to drink loyally and enthusiastically the health of His Majesty the King.

VI.—THE KING. [*Speech at a Banquet.*]

Your Royal Highnesses, my Lords, and Gentlemen,—

My first duty is to call upon you to drink to the health of His Majesty the King [the gracious head of this Academy]. Perhaps the highest tribute that could possibly be paid to the memory of the many virtues possessed by the great Queen Victoria is the world-wide recognition of the fact that she has bequeathed to her successors something of the extraordinary personal magnetism by which she drew the hearts of all her subjects to her. Besides the common bond of British loyalty each class and group of her people seemed to have some especial reason for claiming her as

their own, and she established the mutual regard of sovereign and subject on an absolutely permanent basis. To the throne that is set within the hearts of his people the King has now succeeded, and that he in turn will bequeath it, as he inherited it, to his successors is not a matter for doubt. His claim to our allegiance is not limited to the title by which he rules, but is based on sympathy as well as on prescriptive right. Of that sympathy every individual at this table, round which are gathered representatives of so many and such various forms of life, is fully conscious, and nowhere could this toast be more certain of a loyal and sincere reception. I ask you to drink the health of His Majesty the King.

VII.—QUEEN ALEXANDRA, THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES, AND THE REST OF THE ROYAL FAMILY. [*Proposed by the Chairman.*]

My Lords and Gentlemen,—

The next toast which I have to ask you to drink is that of Queen Alexandra, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family. My task in doing so is a most grateful, but at the same time, a most delicate one ; for while I am impelled to endeavour to give expression to those feelings of affectionate respect which it is the native privilege of their Royal Highnesses to inspire in our hearts, delicacy precludes me, in the hearing of the high personages who honour us with their presence to-night, from dwelling with embarrassing emphasis on the qualities to which those feelings are due. But the unvarying warmth with which this toast is ever received on all occasions, and by all classes, must remind our Royal Family how steadfast and unwavering are the sentiments of personal devotion to them by which we are animated. While never allowing their private inclinations to interfere with the due discharge of the public duties imposed upon them by their station, they have preserved with singular completeness the unity of their family life, a life, be it remembered, upon which our national system is erected. It is largely owing to the example they set to the people in their private relations that they have obtained so firm a hold upon popular sentiment. The picture of the

domestic felicity of our Royal Family appeals to the nation's imagination as being typically national, while their dignity and gracious bearing amid the pomp and circumstance of State ceremonies and public functions stirs its imagination as being so appropriate to the splendid historical traditions of our old Monarchical system. I need not dilate upon the topic, inviting as it is. I give you, my lords and gentlemen, the health of Her Majesty Queen Alexandra, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family.

VIII.—QUEEN ALEXANDRA, THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES, AND THE REST OF THE ROYAL FAMILY. [*Proposed by the Chairman at a Banquet.*]

My Lords and Gentlemen,—

The next toast I have to propose is that of Queen Alexandra, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family. It is impossible to condense into the limits of a sentence even a single one of the many claims Her Majesty has upon our affectionate allegiance. The day she first set foot upon these shores, the indefinable quality known as charm which she possesses in such a rare degree, laid a spell upon the hearts of the people of these United Kingdoms, which time in his passage has only strengthened. Queen Alexandra is the object of the personal affection of the poorest and meanest subjects in these Realms, as they in turn are the object of her personal solicitude and regard. For her sake alone the toast of her health and that of her children is always certain to be received with acclamation, in which something of personal emotion finds utterance, and I need not advance any other of the many other claims it has to your applause. I call upon you to fill your glasses and drink to the health of Her Majesty Queen Alexandra, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family.

IX.—QUEEN ALEXANDRA, THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES, AND THE REST OF THE ROYAL FAMILY. [*Proposed by the Chairman at a Public Dinner.*]

Gentlemen,—

It now devolves upon me to ask you to drink the health of Queen Alexandra, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family. For me to refer at length to Her Majesty would be as superfluous as it would be presumptuous. The mere mention of her name is sufficient to provoke a tumult of applause. Nor can the name of the Prince of Wales gain anything by laudatory phrases from any chairman, however eloquent. Since the day when Providence called him to the high dignity of Heir Apparent to the Throne, he has applied himself with conscientious devotion to the manifold and arduous duties appertaining to that situation. By his marriage to the popular daughter of the Princess Mary of England, he forged the last link in the chain of sentiment that connects him with the people over whom we hope he may be spared to rule some day. He possesses pre-eminently the British characteristic of geniality tempered with proper dignity, and there can be no doubt that in his Royal progress round the Empire with his Royal Consort, he rendered an immense service to the great cause of welding into one homogeneous whole the widely distant units of our vast dominions. That Royal progress marks an epoch in the history of the Empire, as well as in that of the Australian Commonwealth, to open whose first Federal Parliament it was primarily planned; for it has served to give a sense of personal intercourse between the millions of our kinsmen beyond the seas and three generations of our Royal House: between the people and Queen Victoria, whose wise and kindly diplomacy suggested the splendid progress; King Edward, as whose representative His Royal Highness went; and the Prince of Wales himself, to whom some day the people will render allegiance as King George the Fifth. That the spirit that animates their Royal Highnesses animates the rest of the Royal House has been proved to demonstration over and over again, and it is with particular pleasure that I exercise my privilege as chairman, and ask you to drink the health of Her Majesty Queen Alexandra, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family.

X.—QUEEN ALEXANDRA, THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES, AND THE REST OF THE ROYAL FAMILY. [*Proposed by the Chairman on any Public Occasion.*]

Gentlemen,—

I have now to ask you to honour the toast of Queen Alexandra, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family, and I have no fear as to the manner in which you will comply with my request. Prior to the demise of Queen Victoria, it devolved upon Her present Majesty to discharge many of the functions of the Sovereign, and it seemed impossible that anything could be added to the grace and dignity with which she played her part. Yet when by fluxion of time she was called from the position of Princess of Wales to the higher one of Queen Consort, she rose to the occasion with royal adaptability, and it is the simple truth to say that the Court has never known such splendour and magnificence as it knows now, while it has lost nothing of the simpler domestic note which was one of its most popular characteristics in the late reign. And the cue she has given to her family has been quickly and loyally taken up. Few people lead such full lives as do the Princes and Princesses of our Royal House. Wherever there is a social duty to be performed, where it is necessary to evoke sympathy and practical assistance for the suffering and afflicted, to inaugurate public works which will conduce to the material advantage and prosperity of the people, to patronise the arts, or popularise beneficent institutions, some member of the Royal Family is always ready to lend the support of his presence, of his voice, and of his purse. This represents no small tax upon the kindness and generosity of the most kind and generous, but assuredly it brings its own reward. I ask you to recognise these qualities by draining a bumper in their honour. Gentlemen, I give you the healths of Her Majesty Queen Alexandra, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family.

XI.—THE IMPERIAL FORCES. [*Proposed by the
Chairman at a Banquet.*]

My Lords and Gentlemen,—

Next to the toasts in which we express our allegiance to the Sovereign and the Royal Family, we are accustomed to drink to those services which exist for the protection of the King and the maintenance and safe-guarding of our Empire—the Army, the Navy, and the Reserve Forces. It has been reserved for the opening of a new century to widen the scope of this toast, and in calling upon you to honour the Imperial Forces, I am using a phrase pregnant with meaning for the future, as it is significant of much that has occurred in the brief past it has already known. No one can fail to remember the thrill that vibrated from the farthest extremities to the very heart of the Empire when, in the opening stages of the last South African war, disaster after disaster befell the British arms; but that thrill was not one of fear or consternation. From whatever reason we had under-estimated the strength and resources of the enemy then opposed to us, and when we learned so rudely that the fifty thousand horse and foot we had despatched with such confidence to Table Bay were inadequate to the task awaiting them, every man in the Empire responded to the call, and the Imperial Forces became a living truth. From Canada and Australasia they came, from English shires and Scottish moors, from country manors and from city desks. Nor was their coming due to a momentary blaze of patriotic fire. It was due to the solemn realisation in the soul of every individual of his heirship in this splendid Empire, and from that realisation has sprung into existence a force of which no one can gauge the ultimate effect. What it can do in war has been demonstrated; but, that done, its possible value only begins to be apparent. For in that prolonged struggle the eyes of the world were rivetted upon the opposing armies. Foreign experts, who could not fail to appreciate the difficulties in carrying on a campaign for so long a time, at such a distance from the base, and in so vast an area of hostile country, saw for themselves the personal valour, dogged tenacity of purpose, and obstinate indifference to reverse that characterised every unit in that large host that gathered together for the maintenance of the Empire. It was an object-lesson which will do more to ensure peace than the most subtle diplomacy or the most sagacious statesmanship. The world is under no misapprehension now as to what our

Imperial Forces mean. It would be out of place for me to attempt to particularise the individual claims of the various branches of the two services to your recognition. British soldiers, regular and irregular, won an equal meed of honour, and in South Africa and China British sailors have proved once again what we may expect from them in times of emergency. For the Army I call upon — to respond ; for the Navy I am permitted to name — ; for the Reserve Forces, —. I give you the toast of the Imperial Forces, coupled with the names of the distinguished officers whom I have mentioned.

[Replies to the Foregoing.]

XII.—REPLY ON BEHALF OF THE ARMY.

Mr. Chairman,* my Lords, and Gentlemen,—

When I see so many distinguished officers around me, I feel much flattered at having been called upon to return thanks for the Service to which I have the honour to belong. It is always a pleasant thing on these occasions to find that the Army is remembered, and this good feeling on the part of the public towards the Service is very gratifying to the soldier, and is likely to increase his efficiency. It is an easy matter for arm-chair critics to animadvert upon the smallness of our army, and to institute comparisons between it and the armies of foreign powers where militarism is rampant, and army expenditure is proportionately lower than it is with us. But, when all is said and done, I venture to think that the critics will have all their work cut out to substitute conscription for voluntary service, and if, as is the fact, the voluntary system entails great expenditure, we can comfort ourselves with the reflection that the cheapest things are not always the best, and that in the British Army we possess a first-class fighting machine. Undeniably our army is small, and it is inevitable that our soldiers should be called upon to perform manifold and arduous duties in widely differing climates, and frequently under very trying conditions. It is a far cry from Chitral to Coomassie, as it is from Pretoria to Peking, but the names serve to remind us, if reminder be necessary, that the army has never failed us yet, and I am glad to believe that the pluck and cheerful

* Or his name, if he be titled.

endurance of the British soldier is as great as ever it was. At any rate, you may rely upon our always striving to do our duty. Gentlemen, I am exceedingly obliged to you for the manner in which you have received my name in connection with this toast, and on behalf of the British Army, I thank you for the compliment you have paid us.

XIII.—REPLY ON BEHALF OF THE NAVY.

Mr. Chairman,* my Lords, and Gentlemen,—

I have to return thanks to you for the very cordial manner in which the toast of the Navy has been received, and for the kind way in which my name has been associated with it. Iron and steel may have been substituted for the traditional heart of oak of our ships, and science may be an increasingly important part of the training of our officers, but if it ever comes to fighting, it is the men who will matter most, and in *personnel* I am convinced that our Navy still sets an example to the world, and that in the sailors who are now aboard of our fleet and mercantile marine there are worthy descendants and successors of the men who helped Nelson to make history. It does not come within my province to inquire where the theatre of the next great international conflict will be, but, whether it be in the Far East, as some incline to think, or nearer home in European waters, it is certain that if Great Britain is involved in it, her existence will depend upon her retaining her command of the sea. In such an event I am confident that she need have no fear but what her first line of defence will prove as stout as ever it was. I am proud of the Service to which I belong, and thank you in its name for the welcome you have given to this toast.

XIV.—REPLY ON BEHALF OF THE RESERVE FORCES.

Mr. Chairman,* my Lords, and Gentlemen,—

I rise with some diffidence to return my sincere thanks for the honour you have done the Reserve Forces by receiving this toast with such enthusiasm. If the old

* Or his name, if he be titled.

saying that one volunteer is worth three pressed men may be quoted in extenuation of the smallness of the British Army, it may surely be quoted also in favour of our absolutely volunteer forces. Those forces were blooded in South Africa, and in the annals of that prolonged and lamentable war nothing but credit was placed against the names of our yeomen and volunteers ; the discipline, marksmanship, and powers of endurance they acquired at home stood them in good stead on active service, and the medals that adorn the breasts of so many of our volunteers are the outward sign that the confidence placed in their capacity by experts before the event was not misplaced. Happily, it is not often that there is occasion to call up the Reserves, but if it had only served to demonstrate to us and to the world at large how efficient a force we possessed in them, that war would not have been all in vain. Whenever they are needed they will be ready, and your honour is safe in their hands.

XV.—THE ARMY. [*By the Chairman at a Public Dinner.*]

Gentlemen,—

It again falls to my lot to address you, and I am sure the toast which I am about to bring to your notice will meet with a hearty response from all in this room. This toast, gentlemen, is the Army—the British Army—which has carried our victorious colours all over the world. If we possess the smallest army of any European power, we also possess a very efficient one. Notwithstanding all the criticism that has been expended upon our young soldiers, we must remember that these young men have proved on more than one occasion that they can endure without complaint, and can fight when called upon. But it is the old soldiers to whom we look chiefly, and we are glad to retain them in the ranks. The public has it in its power to make the profession of a soldier very popular, and when the Army finds the civilian appreciative, a reciprocal good feeling is engendered, and the Army will go forth to fight with the enemies of our country with renewed zeal, and, as in past times, with honour, and with eventual, if not immediate and instant success. Gentlemen, I am sure you will join heartily in the toast of our gallant British Army, at home and abroad, coupling it with the name of —

XVI.—THE ARMY. [*Reply to the above.*]

Mr. Chairman [Mr. Vice-Chairman] and Gentlemen,—

I assure you that until I heard my name pronounced just now by our worthy chairman when proposing the health of the profession to which I had [or have] the honour to belong, I was quite unaware that I should be called upon to address you. But, fortunately, the able manner in which the toast of the Army has been proposed, and the cordiality with which it has been received, takes a great weight from my mind. You all as Englishmen are proud of the British Army, and, speaking as a soldier, I can assure you that we highly appreciate the good feeling and comradeship extended to us by the non-military portion of the population. In this town we have had frequently to acknowledge the kindness of the inhabitants, displayed by all classes, towards the regiment to which I have the honour to belong [or to command]. We appreciate that feeling, and we shall all regret the inevitable severance of the friendly ties when the occasion unfortunately for us comes, as come it must. Gentlemen, I will not further waste your time by dwelling upon the Army. We try to do our duty, and when we are called to battle, you will find that the old *esprit* is still in the *corps*, and that the old pluck and the same brave heart is beneath the red coat, whatever be the facings, or whatever be the weapons of the wearers. I thank you, gentlemen, on behalf of my comrades and myself for the kind way in which you have received the toast of the Army this evening.

XVII.—THE NAVY. [*Proposed at a Semi-official Dinner.*]

Gentlemen,—

It is my very agreeable duty to request you to drink the toast of the Navy, and to the audience I see before me I need not enter into any details concerning the splendid services rendered to the nation by the British Navy. From the days of Elizabeth, when the bold Drake and his companions went out to harass and finally to conquer the "Invincible Armada," we can point to a roll of victory at sea extending far beyond that of any other nation. England was and is the Mistress of the Seas, and though happily we have not been engaged in any serious naval conflicts, who can doubt that when called upon the iron-clad will repeat the successes of the old wooden walls of which we are so justly proud? Gentlemen, the Navy, if you please, coupled with the name of —.

XVIII.—THE NAVY. [*Response to the foregoing Toast.*]

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—

I was quite unprepared for the honour done me in connecting my name with the toast of the Navy, and I regret for your sakes, as my hearers, that either my friend — or — was not called upon to respond, both these distinguished officers being more fitted than I to undertake such an important duty, pleasant though it be. Gentlemen, our worthy chairman has alluded to the services rendered by the British Navy in old days. Those were glorious days for England. But, if war should unhappily break out, there are still glorious days in store for England. We may enter upon a campaign, as we have done, unprepared, our organisation may be incomplete, but in the face of all difficulties, I will answer for it, the British sailor, whose light-heartedness is proverbial, will come to the front as cheerfully and as manfully as ever. I have little to add. The Navy is at present quite efficient and well manned. As an old hand I may regret the great advance of costly scientific mechanism for various purposes, a failure in which may leave us at the mercy of an enemy quite unexpectedly, but the hands on board are as ready as ever, and the ship won't strike up; but in one way it will strike hard, and strike home! Gentlemen, most cordially do I thank you on behalf of my colleagues and myself for the warmth with which you have received the toast of the Navy.

XIX.—THE VOLUNTEERS. [*By a Vice-Chairman at a Social Meeting.*]

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—

Although this is not an official occasion I rise to propose a toast to which I am sure you will extend a cordial reception—the Volunteers. To recall the days when the Volunteer was the recognised butt of all the humorous papers is like taking a peep into pre-historic times, but it is instructive to do so, as it affords a fresh illustration of the truth that chaff and ridicule can never kill any movement in which there are the germs of vigorous life. I need not dwell upon the importance of the movement as affording healthy exercise and opportunity of physical development to scores of young fellows just entering upon man-

hood, nor upon its value in fostering the patriotic spirit in a country whose whole military system is voluntary. It is to the purely military value of the volunteer force that I would direct your thoughts this evening, and ask you to honour it for the good work it has accomplished in the field for the Sovereign and the Empire. The question whether the training given to volunteers at the Easter manœuvres, and the marksmanship acquired by them on their ranges, and demonstrated annually at Bisley, would be of practical utility on active service, has been finally answered in the affirmative, and those volunteers who wear the South African medal on their breasts are proved as good soldiers as any in the regular army. Invasion of this country—to repel which was the original idea that led to the formation of the Volunteers—has never been a really likely contingency, but it is more improbable than ever now that the Volunteers have shown their worth in war; they have made it patent to the world that they are able to give the best possible account of themselves, and their old motto, "Defence not defiance," has a new significance for any possible foes. We know that defence would be sufficient. Gentlemen, I give you the toast of the Volunteers.

XX.—REPLY TO THE TOAST OF THE VOLUNTEERS.

Mr. Chairman (or President) and Gentlemen,—

In the presence of so many senior officers, and many of the Regular Army, I may perhaps be excused for feeling somewhat diffident in returning thanks for the Volunteer Service. But there is one point upon which I have no hesitation in speaking, and that is the firm and universal feeling of patriotism existing among the Volunteers. They are second to none in their wish to defend their country, and to fight their country's battles if necessary. Our Citizen Soldiers perform their duties with a precision which has called down high praise from the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief and other officers in the service. When judging the Volunteers, we must remember that nine-tenths of them are engaged in mercantile or professional pursuits, and that they have arrived at the degree of excellence which they have attained by strict self-denial and by intelligent attention. There are hundreds of first-rate marksmen among them, and their general conduct in camp has been found very satisfactory. Public

opinion, we know, influences us all, and as a Volunteer [and as one who has seen military service in former years] I can speak with confidence of our Citizen Army, and I am convinced it will merit and appreciate any attention bestowed upon it. Gentlemen, in conclusion, I thank you all heartily for the very kind manner in which the toast of the Volunteer Service has been proposed and received, and I trust it will continue to deserve your good opinion in the future.

XXI.—TOAST OF THE MILITIA. [*Proposed at a County Dinner by the Chairman.*]

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—

It is my duty, and I may add my pleasure, to propose to you a toast which is closely connected with the county in which we reside, and in the prosperity of which we are all interested. You will doubtless have anticipated me in my announcement of the County Corps, and I hope you will all fill your glasses and presently unite with me in drinking the health of Colonel — and the Officers and Men of the Royal — Militia. The Regiment is, as you are aware, a very old-established one, and although the regulations of the service do not permit of us seeing much of it, we would gladly see the Corps more frequently assembled, for it is composed of as fine a body of men as any regiment in the service ; and we hope it will always continue in as good a state of discipline as it is at present. Before I sit down I must say a few words concerning the behaviour of the men now embodied. I am glad in my official capacity as magistrate to bear witness to the very few instances in which the enrolled rank and file have misconducted themselves. In such a large body of men there must be some less well-conducted than others ; but owing to the County feeling, and the excellent discipline maintained by the Colonel and Officers, we welcome our County Regiment among us, instead of dreading, as some towns do dread, the date of their enrolment. Gentlemen, I give you the toast of the Royal — Militia, coupled with the name of [Lieut.-] Colonel —.

XXII.—REPLY ON BEHALF OF THE MILITIA.

[*By the Colonel (or Lieut.-Colonel) of the Corps.*]

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—

In response to the call made upon me by my friend Mr. —, who has so kindly proposed the toast of the Militia, I rise to thank him and you for the flattering manner in which it has been brought before us and received. Gentlemen, I feel deeply grateful for the high opinion which has been expressed concerning the efficiency of the Corps which I have the honour to command. I can truly say that the Regiment is ready and willing to go anywhere and do anything it may be called upon to do. Were any extra troops required, I am sure the Royal — Militia would at once volunteer for service [as it has done before], and carry the name of the County unstained, in battle if need be. My poor services have been referred to, but I need hardly tell you that without energetic assistance and *esprit de corps* no regiment can be kept together by any commanding officer. It is in very great measure to the excellent company officers and non-commissioned officers under my command, and, I will add, to the good conduct and zeal of the men, that the real efficiency of the Regiment is due. I am glad to hear such independent testimony to the character of the Corps, and I trust it will always deserve the title and prove worthy of the County with which it is associated. Gentlemen, on behalf of the Royal — Militia, I thank you.

XXIII.—THE NAVY AND THE NAVAL RESERVE.

[*Proposed at a Public Dinner by the Chairman.*]

[Sir W. — and] Gentlemen,—

The next toast on my list is one which [at a great Naval Station like this] is sure to command your attention, not because of the manner of its proposition, but because of the importance of the toast itself. The toast is the Royal Navy of England and the Naval Reserve. Gentlemen, in every sea, in every country in the world, you will find British ships and British sailors. In commerce, in exploring expeditions, in pleasant days and, it may be, sometimes in warlike attitude, you will always find our sailors doing their duty. We have had lately to lament

several accidents, and the loss of many valuable lives in the Pacific and elsewhere. It is a new phase of the service in time of peace that accidents such as explosions, and even, perhaps, the buckling of fast craft should endanger our valued comrades' lives. But some of these accidents are, doubtless, due to the altered condition of things. Modern Naval warfare is more scientific than of old. Bull-dog courage may be overcome by science, and electricity usurp the place of many brave hands; but we know that in the Navy, and in the Reserve of officers and men, now employed in peaceful commerce, the same tenacity is to be found, and the Heart of Oak is only covered with armour. The oak is as hearty as ever, hide it as you may. The Navy and its Reserve, we know, will do their duty side by side when called upon. So, gentlemen, will you fill your glasses, and drink to the Royal Navy and the Naval Reserve.

[Reply to the foregoing Toast.]

XXIV.—THE NAVY AND NAVAL RESERVE.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—

Although an unworthy member of the noble profession which has been so generously toasted by you, I yield to none in my attachment to the Navy, and in the estimation in which I hold it, and the splendid Reserve which so manfully assists the parent profession. It is not for me on this occasion to go into the question of the organisation and efficiency of the Navy. As a member of the service such criticism would be quite irregular, but I can speak for the officers and men who compose the crews of the ships. Fortunately, our squadrons have been of late years confined to police duties, and we have had no engagement or loss of life. But I cannot help feeling that a day will come when all our energy and maritime strength will be needed. Then I trust and believe that we shall find our sailors as ready for action as ever they were, and I believe that the Administration will see that our ships are in as good condition and as well equipped as the honour of our country demands. Ships and guns have all undergone changes. But, whatever the latest development in guns and construction may be, we shall always

want cool heads and strong arms to man the guns, and those we possess in the Navy and the Naval Reserve. Come what may, you will, I assert, find the sailors ready for action, and prepared to defend their homes, their wives and sweethearts, whenever they may be called upon. Gentlemen, in the name of the Service and the Naval Reserve, I tender you our thanks for your reception of the toast.

XXV.—THE NAVAL VOLUNTEERS. [*Proposed at a County Gathering.*]

Gentlemen,—

As Chairman of this meeting it has fallen to my lot to propose several toasts to you this evening, but the toast I have now to ask you to honour requires little explanation. It is that of the Naval Volunteers. I do not suppose that many people can now be found who decry the Volunteers; it is no light responsibility that they have undertaken, but they have satisfied their country of their ability to discharge it efficiently. The Naval Volunteers in particular have to undergo a considerable amount of hardship in their training, and are obliged to apply themselves to their voluntary duties with untiring devotion: those afford them little respite if they would qualify themselves for the service they may be called upon to perform, and in asking you to drink this toast in their honour I am only asking you to make a very inadequate recognition of the debt we owe to them. I couple with the toast the name of —. Gentlemen, the Naval Volunteers.

XXVI.—THE NAVAL VOLUNTEERS. [*Reply to the foregoing toast.*]

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—

I believe brevity is generally regarded as the soul of wit, and I may promise that I am about to make, in that sense, a witty speech, for it shall be short. The Naval Volunteers, with whom I have the pleasure to be connected, will be very pleased to-morrow when they read of the kind way in which [our Chairman] has proposed the last

toast. I can answer for them fearlessly from my experience of them, and I may add of some other Volunteers, that they are fully sensible of the prominent position they occupy, and are anxious to perform their duties in a manner second to none in smartness and devotion to the country. Some people affect to sneer at Volunteers, but what is the whole Army and the whole Navy but an enrolment of Volunteers? There is no press-gang, no conscription; every soldier and sailor enlists voluntarily. The only difference is that the one is paid for his services as in a profession—and not too well paid; while the other gives his time to learn drill and habits of discipline when his daily work is done. We look up to the sister Services to set us an example we will endeavour to follow; and when duty and the country call us, I trust—indeed, I have no doubt—that we shall be found worthy to stand shoulder to shoulder with our soldiers and sailors as Englishmen should do.

XXVII.—THE VOLUNTEERS. [*Proposed at an Official Dinner by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman.*]

My Lords and Gentlemen,—

It is my pleasing duty now to propose to you a patriotic toast, which will be warmly received by all present, and find an echo outside of these walls—the toast of the Volunteers. It has been my privilege to command many battalions of the Volunteers of late years, and, speaking as a soldier, I am glad to admit that many of them are quite able to take their place alongside of the Regulars. Their history is a long and honourable one; from small beginnings they have worked their way through ridicule and criticism and many obstacles to a high position in the forces of the Empire. The days when “volunteering” was a Parliamentary expression for playing at soldiers are long past, and Volunteer Regiments nowadays can march and shoot as well as many crack regiments of the line. At Shoburness the Volunteer Batteries have always proved themselves artillerists of high calibre, and the Commandant of the School of Gunnery there can testify to the uniform good behaviour and soldier-like bearing of the Volunteers. All this work, we must remember, is done from patriotic motives, at a considerable sacrifice of holiday time, and at great expense. No one who has watched the evolution of the force can entertain a doubt that in the Volunteers

we have a most valuable reserve; those of them who served in the South African War may be taken as fairly representative of the whole force, and how well the City Imperial Volunteers acquitted themselves is a matter of history; there are many thousands more all as competent, efficient, and zealous, ready if the Empire should have need of them. I do not propose to enlarge upon the subject; the officers should learn to handle their men and to make the best use of them, remembering that they are dealing with intelligent material; the rank and file must be obedient and strict in discipline; thus a mutual confidence will be engendered, to the vast benefit of the force; troops that are led by capable officers, whom they trust and obey, can do anything. I have the welfare of the Force at heart. I recognise its efficiency and its great possibilities, and I ask you to drink to the Volunteer Force of Great Britain, coupled with the name of a very distinguished officer, —.

XXVIII.—THE VOLUNTEERS. [*Reply to foregoing by Senior Volunteer Officer.*]

Sir W—— B—— (Chairman), my Lords, and Gentlemen,—

The kind, considerate, and very handsome way in which Col. —— has just proposed the health of the Volunteer Force, and the hearty manner in which all present have responded to his invitation to the toast, have touched me deeply. I have been associated with the Volunteer movement from its infancy, and am glad to hear such kindly sentiments respecting the organisation from so qualified a judge and such an experienced commander as Col. ——.

The words he has used will be eagerly read and carefully treasured by thousands of our Citizen Army. The kind recognition of their merit, and the no less kindly advice bestowed, will be fully appreciated. Gentlemen, the Volunteers are a fine body of men, numbering many tens of thousands. We can put 100,000 men in the field for service if necessary, and such a number of drilled troops, with arms which they are accustomed to use, would tell for much in a campaign. We are glad that the Volunteers are being recognised. Such recognition will increase their patriotism and devotion, and stimulate them to further exertion. I thank you heartily in the name of

the Volunteers for the compliment that has been paid them this evening.

[The following speeches, actually delivered by Sir Frederic (afterwards Lord) Leighton, P.R.A. ; by H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge, at that time Commander-in-Chief of the Army ; and by Lord Northbrook, at the Annual Banquet of the Royal Academy, are retained as examples of formal speeches adapted to the requirements of a special audience. In the particular application of the subject to the audience lies half the art of after-dinner speaking.]

XXIX.—THE SERVICES. [*Speech, in proposing the Services, delivered by Sir F. Leighton at the Royal Academy.*]

Your Royal Highness, my Lords, and Gentlemen,—

Next in order to the toasts in which we express our loving loyalty to the Queen and our loyal affection to Her Majesty's family, is that in which we drink to those Services which exist for the safeguarding of the Queen's dominions—"The Army, the Navy, and the Reserve Forces." A little realm controlling a vast empire, along the wide skirts of which war, ever smouldering, leaps fitfully and too often into flame, a people which tolerates none but voluntary service, and places, not without effort, into the battle front a force which only the highest quality can make adequate to its needs, must ever look with a deep and unfaltering interest on the small but famous army on which a burden of such responsibility is thrown. And Englishmen, turning back to the not unchequered records of the year which divides this gathering from our last, will recall with proud satisfaction a feat of arms not readily to be surpassed, I believe, in our military annals, whether for the prudent audacity of its conception or the brilliant thoroughness of its achievement—I mean the now famous march from Cabul to Candahar ; but they will also recall with gratification incidents of devoted bravery shining out in and redeeming a less bright page in that record—gallant resistance unto the death, where death only could be reaped, and more than one heroic struggle round a threatened flag, as if to prove to us once more what incentive to high deeds lives ever in the folds of that hallowed symbol of a nation's

honour. Unlike the Army, the Navy records an uneventful year; but the country preserves an unshaken faith that in this period of its rest our fleet is gathering up accumulated strength, and that the day of action, when it comes, will find it, as ever, equal to its task and worthy of its fame. With these Services our toast couples as usual the Reserve Forces, the Militia, and the Volunteers, in the ranks of which force Art is, I venture to hope, not discreditably represented. For the land forces I have once again the honour to turn to his Royal Highness the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-Chief, and for the Navy I am permitted to call on the First Lord of the Admiralty, the Earl of Northbrook. I give you "The Army, the Navy, and the Reserve Forces."

XXX.—SPEECH BY THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE IN REPLY.

Sir Frederick Leighton, your Royal Highness, my Lords, and Gentlemen,—

I have so often been called upon to respond to this toast that I feel rather embarrassed by the position I annually occupy, fearing I should say very much what I said before. It is always a great satisfaction to those connected with the Army to feel that they are remembered on these occasions by so distinguished an assembly, composed of men of various shades of opinion and occupying a high position in the different walks of life which they adorn. It shows the sentiment which for so many years has pervaded the general public of this country, and which I trust will ever continue, for it has much to do with the good feeling and efficiency of the Service with which I have the honour to be connected. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has alluded to the gaps occasioned by the removal of some whom we were wont to meet at this anniversary. No one more deeply deplores than I do the death of that great statesman who has recently been taken from among us, but it is very satisfactory to find that such an admirable portrait of him has been secured by Mr. Millais, which will, I have no doubt, be a source of great and permanent interest. With respect to the Army, I may be allowed to say that in a country such as this—which is in no respect a military nation, but following commerce and trade, and seeking prosperity and the various advantages of life which our

free constitution gives us—we have no conscription. We have, therefore, a very small army, and it has great and onerous duties to perform in various parts of the world. The expenditure upon such an army is infinitely greater than is necessary for an army of conscription. In time of peace, therefore, the expenditure is kept at the lowest figure, and when any difficulty or emergency arises it becomes necessary to bring up the efficiency of the Service to the highest point. Therein lies a great difficulty of the Service, and I, therefore, think it wrong when severe criticism is indulged not quite in accord with the general views and principles which pervade this great nation. The Volunteer forces exhibit in a remarkable manner the spirit of the country. These forces are entirely civil, and are brought together by the determination of Englishmen to meet any emergency that may arise. Of these the Artists' Corps is one of the smartest and most efficient. I am glad of the opportunity of paying this tribute to them. The Militia is also a most valuable force. In conclusion, I will only beg again to thank you for the kind reception you have given to the toast.

XXXI.—REPLY FOR THE NAVY BY LORD NORTH-BROOK.

Sir Frederick Leighton, your Royal Highnesses, my Lords, and Gentlemen,—

In behalf of Her Majesty's Navy, I thank you for the honour you have done them. As you, Sir Frederick, have rightly said, there are no particular circumstances which seem to call for any special remarks connected with the Navy to-night, and I turn, therefore, gladly to the associations of the Navy with this distinguished Society. The same causes that have produced the maritime power of our country, and which secure to the toast of the Navy an affectionate welcome in every assembly of Englishmen, have constantly and naturally directed the attention of our artists to naval subjects. Mr. Ruskin has eloquently described the difficulty, if not the impossibility, of adequately representing, to use his own words, "the wild, furious, fantastic, tame unity of the sea;" but we may, I think, accept the praise that he bestowed on the efforts in that direction, of British artists. Turner and Stanfield have left behind them works of genius which will ever

associate their names with the exploits of the British Navy. The works of Edward Cook, too, are justly appreciated for many reasons, but, perhaps, particularly for the faithfulness and delicacy with which he has drawn and painted every manner of craft, from a line-of-battle ship to a Thames wherry. I am afraid that the forms of our modern men-of-war are not so picturesque as those which roused the eloquence of Canning and inspired the brush of Turner ; but as we expect that the officers and men of the Navy will show the same qualities in the new as in the old ships, and meet the new conditions of naval warfare with their wonted success, so we may hope that the members of the Academy will have little difficulty in the artistic treatment of our modern ships, and maintaining successfully the position which that branch of art holds in the school of British painting.

SECTION II.

TOASTS ECCLESIASTICAL AND POLITICAL.

THE CHURCH AND HER DIGNITARIES.

A CONSECRATION.

XXXII.—THE CHURCH AND OUR BISHOP. [*Proposed by the Chairman at a Consecration Banquet.*]

Gentlemen, --

The toast I have first to propose to you is one which, as Christians and as Englishmen, you will have anticipated. We have to-day been assisting at a ceremony which is at once solemn and interesting. We have been engaged in the work of Consecration—an act which our most worthy Bishop has performed, with the appreciation and with the prayers of you all. We have consecrated another edifice to the glory of God and of His Church—a Church against which all the waves of discontent will never prevail—the Church of England. It is with the building we have been concerned, and it is to the building I will more directly confine my remarks. Our earliest recollections and experiences have been associated with the Church. We have been admitted as children of Christ at the font. We have played beneath the shadow of the tower or spire. We have frequented the church, let us hope, with profit. We have knelt at the altar in our youth and on a very important occasion in our maturer years. The associations of the Church, even those of the churchyard, are pleasing to us, if tinged with a natural regret for those who have only gone before us, received into the true and blissful Church Triumphant. And in connection with the Church our worthy and beloved Bishop occupies a fore-

most position, not only for his attainments, but for the usefulness of his revered office, and the eloquent example and the never-ending sermon of that holy life he leads, as an example for us all. It needs no words of mine to echo his praise. We must all cherish an instinctive reverence for our Church ; we must all revere her bishops. Gentlemen, will you please unite with me in the toast of the Church of England and the Bishop of this Diocese.

XXXIII.—THE CLERGY. [*Proposed by the Chairman at a County Dinner.*]

Gentlemen,—

There is, I am sure, no toast more welcome to those I see before me this evening than that I am about to propose, viz., the health of our respected Bishop and of the Clergy of this Diocese. Of the latter I see a goodly sprinkling, and it is with satisfaction that we note the presence of so many of our clergy at the innocent social gatherings and meetings in our county. As a body of gentlemen they commend themselves highly to our friendship, as ministers of religion they have proved themselves able exponents of its truths. I am sure therefore that, acknowledging them as we do, you will honour the toast of the Bishop and the Clergy of the Diocese with enthusiasm and heartfelt regard. Gentlemen, the Bishop and his Clergy.

XXXIV.—THE VICAR OF THE PARISH. [*At an Agricultural Dinner.*]

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—

Before I propose any of the miscellaneous toasts of the evening, I call upon you all to fill your glasses and drink the health of our worthy Vicar and his coadjutors in the good work of this large parish. We have all, at one time or the other, I hope, felt the consolations of religion in our places in church ; but our acquaintance with the Vicar and his assistants does not end here. In our homes we are glad to welcome our Clergy quite apart, but not disconnected, from their holy office. They sympathise with

us in our misfortunes and console us in our bereavements. They rejoice with us in our mirth as well as weep with us in our sadness. We are glad to see them here to-night. The Vicar, as you all know, is a man who has the agricultural prosperity of the county at heart, who interests himself greatly in the progress of agriculture within our borders, and continually finds fresh fields for his energy. Gentlemen, I give you the toast of the Vicar and the Curates—men who have faithfully put their hands to the plough, and who are not looking back, but forward to the great prize they hope to win.

XXXV.—RESPONSE OF THE VICAR TO THE FOREGOING. [*On behalf of himself and his Curates.*]

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—

As you are all by this time aware, I cannot plead that I am unaccustomed to public speaking. But while thanking our worthy Chairman for the kind terms he has used in proposing this toast, and thanking you for the warm reception you have given it, I will be as brief as possible. Long speeches are wearisome, as well as long sermons. Your Chairman has eloquently alluded to our efforts in the parish, and I am glad to acknowledge that a great deal of the success and social recognition we meet with is due to our parishioners themselves. We may be all that is desirable—I don't say we are not—but, if so, much is due to the kindness and sympathy you extend to us; for we are thereby encouraged to do our very best, with God's assistance, to promote the welfare and happiness of our friends and parishioners generally. We are, I am glad to say, a united parish; it is extremely gratifying to me to add, a religious and well-conducted parish. Your liberality has enabled us to do a good deal, and with your help we hope some day to do more for our community. I am very much interested in the material welfare of the parish, as well as in its moral condition. I am of opinion that cleanliness should walk hand-in-hand with godliness, that drains and houses should be attended to as well as minds and hearts. Providence will help those who help themselves and endeavour to turn to the best uses the means and blessings bestowed upon them. Prayer and work should be associated. The farmer who begged Hercules to assist him to move his cart without himself

attempting to drag the wheels from the mud was acting in a spirit contrary to a great moral law. He was told to put his shoulder to the wheel, and that is what we, all of us, must do. I have already detained you too long, so I will only add my thanks to you all for your kind reception of the toast of myself and my co-workers in the Church.

XXXVI.—THE CLERGY OF THE DISTRICT. [*At a Hospital Dinner.*]

Gentlemen, —

I must ask your indulgence for a few moments while I propose to you a toast to the health of no one individual, but of several hard-working gentlemen who risk their lives daily and hourly in the service of the suffering and the poor. I refer to the Clergy of this district, without distinction of creed, who in our town, and in our Hospital particularly, minister to the spiritual wants of those who need consolation. All present are supporters of the charity, and as such I see I am addressing individuals of many shades of opinion. We are all I hope *Christians*, and it is as Christians, not as sectarians, that I call upon you to unite with me in the toast. We call ours a Samaritan Hospital: we accommodate the wayfarer, and him who has no friend. Let us emulate the charity of the Good Samaritan, and join heartily in thanking the Clergy and Ministers and Priests of all denominations for their attention during the year. Gentlemen, in the true spirit of tolerance and charity I propose to you the Clergy of the District.

SECTION III.

THE LEGISLATURE.

HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT—LORDS AND COMMONS—LOCAL MEMBERS.

XXXVII.—THE HOUSE OF LORDS. [*Proposed by the Chairman at a Public Dinner.*]

My Lords and Gentlemen,—

The toast I have now the honour to propose to you is the House of Lords ; and though there are around me some who may object to the Hereditary chamber on principle, I venture to say that it will be a very sad day for the country when the House of Lords no longer exists. We have in the Upper House men who have served their country long and faithfully, who as Commoners have done good work for England, it may be in the State or in other ways, and who have been rewarded by a peerage. But on this occasion we have particularly to honour one individual Member of their Lordships' House—one of the old aristocracy who has come amongst us this evening. In him we have a bright and excellent example of the landlord and the magistrate, a peer and, above all, an English gentleman. With this toast of the House of Lords I call upon you all, gentlemen, to drink the health of the Right Honourable the Lord H—.

XXXVIII.—THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT—THE LORDS. [*Reply to the foregoing.*]

My Lords, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—

The first feeling which the association of the names of Lords and Commons in one toast may suggest to our minds

at the present time is, perhaps, one of contrast. Many here present, I dare say, can call to mind the lines of the Roman poet in which he speaks of a man standing on the sea-shore during a tremendous storm and seeing ships labouring in a troubled sea, not, indeed, taking part in the struggle, but feeling some degree of gratification at being safe from it himself. I am afraid the feeling is not one altogether of gratification. We in the House of Lords may have little of these labours, and we may feel that the House of Commons, at the present time at all events, has, perhaps, too much. But we feel still more that we are, after all, two Houses of one Parliament, which is the great Legislature of this great country; that we have common duties and common interests, and that the work of the one is the work of the other; and with the troubles of the one the other cannot but sympathise. I was glad to hear the Chairman speak of the House of Lords as a popular assembly. It is so in a very true sense. It is the representative of the great historical names by which the glories of this country have been illustrated. In this assembly and on this occasion one naturally thinks, in the first place, of the law and of justice, and of tracing the great names from the Fortescues of the times of the Plantagenets to the Giffards of Halsbury of our own day. The House of Lords has received from the ranks of the law many of its most illustrious members, and has retained them to do good service in all other ranks of society. And not only have such recruits been received from the law, but from commerce, from diplomacy, from among the army and navy, and from other branches of the public service; and the result has been that though the House of Lords is free from the passing gusts of popular opinion, although the principle of stability—I prefer that word to one which has party associations, yet has a good sense, the word Conservatism—is somewhat largely and preponderatingly represented in that assembly, yet you may depend on it that the sympathies of the House of Lords are on the whole for the people. They understand the wants and will defer to the well-considered judgment of the people. I rejoice that we have in the House of Lords an institution by means of which the present can be at once reverential to the past and mindful of the interests of the future. It is certainly a remarkable thing that the very great power possessed in the House of Lords by the representatives of what is called Conservative opinion in the country has seldom, if ever, been unreasonably or unwisely used. At the present period, when the expansion of the Empire is progressing with such marvellous rapidity and vigour, it is impossible

not to feel intensely desirous that the House of Lords shall be still more distinguished by that characteristic, and I confidently believe that so it will be.

XXXIX.—HIS MAJESTY'S MINISTERS. [*Proposed by the Chairman.*]

My Lords and Gentlemen,—

From men who pursue their peaceful ways aloof from the storm and gusty turmoil of political strife, a deep debt is due to those who, casting their lot on that troubled sea, guide, in the Sovereign's name, the steaming vessel of the State. A warm sense of that debt is expressed in the toast I now offer to you—"The Health of His Majesty's Ministers." One of the facts in our national history that fill me most constantly with admiration and gratitude is that the supply of men of high integrity and fine calibre, competent to guide and represent so old and great a Power, should be inexhaustible. However large one individual statesman may loom upon the stage, however rich and manifold his gifts may be, however strong and fascinating his personality, however compelling his will, steadfast his purpose, rich his resources,—when his part has been played, his final exit made, and his voice and figure are heard and seen no more, the nation has never yet been forced to confess that he is irreplaceable, or to bury part of its hopes within his grave. When Lord Beaconsfield died, when Mr. Gladstone died, it seemed impossible that the world could go on unmoved, or that anyone could be found to discharge their great functions with the same dignity and skill. So it has been before, and so it will be again. We look at the vacant chair wondering who can be found to fill it, and still our race continues to produce worthy successors to those who have passed into history. Of that great company an illustrious representative is with us to-night, and I rejoice to make way for him, an orator in whose transforming mind the most arid topics acquire a grace and whom an occasion and environment such as this cannot fail to stir to eloquence. I give you the health of His Majesty's Ministers, coupled with the name of the Right Honourable —.

XL.—THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

My Lords and Gentlemen,—

In asking you to honour the toast of the House of Commons I ask you to honour an institution of which we are, as a nation, proud. There is no other institution in the world where perfect freedom of debate is so seldom marred by lack of dignity or want of good taste, and as it is composed of representatives of the people so it is itself representative of the best traditions of our national character and demeanour. It would, no doubt, be a comparatively easy task for any theorist to prepare a strong indictment of our existing Parliamentary system ; it is very easy to say that the Commons talk too much and do too little, and that the Lords are an anachronism that should be swept away. But, apart from theory and Utopian schemes, I venture to think that the Mother of Parliaments is still in enjoyment of a vigorous and useful vitality : that the House of Lords supplies an actual present want ; and that the House of Commons is capable of transacting effectually the business of the country. There are periods of congestion, no doubt, and occasionally recurring periods of obstruction, but it cannot be seriously contended by even the most conservative eulogist of times gone by that the prestige and credit of the House of Commons to-day are lower than they were when Plancus was Consul. It is a pleasure to us to welcome here to-night a distinguished Member of Parliament, whose name I am permitted to couple with this toast. The Hon. Member for — enjoys a high reputation far beyond the bounds of his own constituency, and requires no words of introduction from me to you. I will not detain you longer, but give you the toast of the House of Commons, coupled with the name of the Hon. Member for —, —.

XLI.—THE MEMBERS FOR THE BOROUGH. [*Proposed by the Chairman.*]

Gentlemen,—

I must ask your attention once again, and all the less diffidently as I know you are all ready to respond to the toast of the Borough Members. These gentlemen have now represented us in Parliament for — years, and during that time I think we may fairly say that they have attended

with diligence and ability to our interests, whether as Conservatives or Liberals. We need not make any party observations upon this occasion. Let us agree to differ in politics. Each party has a good representative, and although I am a Conservative [Liberal] in my views I can sympathize and respect other people's opinions, to which they are as much entitled as I am entitled to mine. So, gentlemen, I think we can all meet upon the neutral ground of our Borough Members. We are all members one of another, and let us unite as members of the same body in doing honour to our representatives, Messrs. — and —. Gentlemen, the Borough Members, who have always assisted us in every local charity, and in our sports and pastimes.

XLII.—THE COUNTY MEMBERS. [*Proposed by the Chairman at a Dinner to them.*]

Gentlemen,—

I have now come to the toast of the evening, and I must ask you all to fill your glasses so as to do full honour to the toast—"Our County Members." We have had a stormy session, and after the turmoil and worry of Parliament our members have kindly come among us to give us an account of their stewardship. I think we are all agreed that the stewardship they hold should not be exchanged for that of the "Chiltern Hundreds." We have noticed, and we shall always, I may add, fearlessly continue to notice, all that goes on in Parliament; but when we entrusted our interests to Messrs. — and —, we did so in full and entire confidence—a confidence which has never been betrayed. Not only that, but we believe that our representatives have the welfare of the community at heart. That they have the welfare of us, their fellow-townsmen and fellow-countrymen at heart, we are satisfied. They have watched over us; they have come amongst us on several occasions lately, and shown the interest they take in our schools and in our sports, in our various manufactures and in our holidays. They have gained our votes, and we trust they will long live to represent the old County in Parliament. I might say a great deal more respecting our representatives, socially and politically, but their acts are patent to us all, and you

will, I am sure, endorse the proposal I have to make, and drink their health with all the honours. Gentlemen, the Members for the County of —

XLIII.—PROPOSING A CANDIDATE FOR ELECTION

[By the Chairman of the Meeting.]

Gentlemen,—

I have the pleasure to introduce to you this evening our respected friend and townsman, Mr. —, a Candidate to represent the Liberal [*or* Conservative] interests of this town in Parliament. You have all probably taken an opportunity to study the address which he put forth, and therefore I need not read it now. I may say, however, that it seems to me straightforward and fair. He knows what we want, and, gentlemen, I think from what we know of Mr. —'s opinions, of his integrity and determination, that he is the man we want. We wish to see — abolished, and a Bill for — introduced. Mr. — has pledged himself to look after our interests in both these matters. Mr. — is a true Conservative [*or* Liberal], and has the welfare of the party at heart. Gentlemen, as Chairman, I call upon you for a show of hands, and the expression of your wishes towards Mr. —, whom I will now introduce to you, that you may have an opportunity to hear from his own mouth his sentiments and views upon the great topics of the day. Any questions you may put, I am quite sure Mr. — will answer fully to your satisfaction. Gentlemen, I have the honour to introduce to your notice Mr. —, as a fitting and proper person to represent you in Parliament.

XLIV.—ANOTHER ON A SIMILAR OCCASION.

Gentlemen,—

Having been moved to the chair, although somewhat unexpectedly, I will now proceed to the business of the evening, and will not detain you long in stating my case. I have great pleasure in introducing to you Mr. —, as one of our Candidates for the Borough of —, and I feel assured that those amongst you who have perused

his address will feel very little doubt that he is the person we require to look after our interests. The Borough is increasing in prosperity and in extent. We require some representative who will move with the times, and secure to us the advantages and privileges of which, in an ever-increasing community, we may stand in need. Mr. — is pledged to support the — interest, which is largely represented by us, and the questions of —, and — now occupying public attention, will be more particularly looked after by him. He is moreover a true Liberal [*or* Conservative] in his views, a party-man 'tis true, and a strict adherent to his principles; but he will not permit any bigoted adherence to party politics to blind him to the general interests of the trade of the town, or to the welfare of the inhabitants. He approves of the policy of the Ministry, and will give you his views upon domestic and foreign questions. They appear to me to be strongly leavened with good practical common sense, and display an acquaintance with both subjects which is necessary, but somewhat unusual, to the hand and glove politician. It would be impertinent in me to detain you longer. Mr. — will now take the opportunity to explain his views, and commending him cordially to your attention, I will now retire, thanking you for the patience with which you have listened to me.

SECTION IV.

LEGAL.

HIS MAJESTY'S JUDGES—THE LORD LIEUTENANT OF THE COUNTY—THE MAGISTRATES.

XLV.—HIS MAJESTY'S JUDGES.

My Lords and Gentlemen,—

The task that has been assigned to me this evening is a very important one, and I am greatly troubled in my mind how to execute it. Executions are not much in my line, as you are aware, and therefore I am scarcely prepared to execute "His Majesty's Judges," which is the toast I have to propose. This diffidence on my part does not in any way arise from a want of material for eulogy. If talents could be conveyed by the subjects of a toast to the person proposing it, I should display an eloquence which would astonish by its brilliancy those unacquainted with my ordinary hesitancy of speech. But this cannot be. Gentlemen,—I have to propose to you in all seriousness, and with every sentiment of respect and admiration, the health of His Majesty's Judges. We regret that — has been prevented from attending this evening on account of —; but when we see such illustrious men before us as —, and —, and —, we feel that Justice is indeed well represented in this company, and what is more important, upon the Judicial Bench. Perhaps some of you here present envy the distinguished and thrice honourable position attained by His Majesty's Judges. But even the Woolsack may be stuffed with thorns and the head that wears a wig may lie as uneasy as the head that wears a crown. Need I recall to your minds, or appeal to your imagination to picture, the tremendous responsibility which devolves upon a Judge? He is

the arbiter of life and death. He must be clear, cool, and decided. The weaknesses of other men are not for him. He must sit out the most wearying trial, balance evidence, rule and determine knotty points of Gordian complexity. He must be attentive to all, courteous and ready to reply to any doubtful questions, and this from day to day. To note, sum up, and lead a jury to a decision in a long case, is no light work for the best of men, such as we cannot doubt are represented upon the Bench of the United Kingdoms. My Lords and Gentlemen, I am so conscious of the want of ability in me to do justice to the Judges, that I must pray your indulgence for my temerity in accepting such an honour when suggested to me, and which I have so weakly borne. But I am sure you will credit me with all sincerity when I call upon you to honour most heartily the toast which needed no words from me to commend it to you—The Health of His Majesty's Judges.

XVLI.—THE LORD LIEUTENANT OF THE COUNTY.

[Proposed by the Chairman.]

Gentlemen,—

Next to the Loyal toasts which you have honoured, I have to propose the health of the Lord Lieutenant of this County, — — —. It scarcely needs my voice to assure him of the estimation in which he is held. We who live in the neighbourhood hear much of his kindness and benevolence, and of the manner in which he performs the duties of landlord and neighbour, duties not merely social nor easy of accomplishment, so as to please, as he does, all with whom he comes in contact. We have had many opportunities of enjoying his kindness and condescension, and I am sure we wish him many more years in the exalted position he now holds. Gentlemen, let us drink Long Life and Happiness to the Lord Lieutenant, who by his influence and energy has done so much for the County and those living in it. We will not intrude any politics on such an occasion as this, but we know that — has always been staunch to his party, and even if we differ from him we must admire his consistency. The Health of the Lord Lieutenant of the County of —.

XLVII.—THE MAGISTRATES.

Gentlemen,

It is my privilege to-day to propose the health of the Magistrates of the County and Borough of —; and while I gladly comply with the request made of me, I cannot help expressing a wish that the task had fallen to other hands, and a more practised tongue. Fortunately, however, what I have to say has been no doubt anticipated by you all. We are all here aware of the estimation in which the Magistrates are held, the general satisfaction with which their decisions are acknowledged, and the manner in which they devote themselves to a thankless office. The principles of justice are defended by every right-thinking member of society, and here we have the exponents of these principles, and by them we trust peace and happiness as well as truth will be established among us for generations. Those gentlemen who have undertaken the administration of our laws are well known to you all; they have served the State before, they have done much good in their generation. They come before us representing the majesty of the law, and so let us respect them as we respect their office. They are most disinterested in their efforts for our happiness. Socially and officially we regard them with goodwill and respect. Let us drink their healths in a bumper. "The Magistrates of the County of — and the Borough of —."

XLVIII.—THE LORD LIEUTENANT AND MAGISTRATES OF THE COUNTY OF —.

[Proposed by the Chairman.]

Gentlemen,—

Once more I must claim your indulgent hearing, but I will not detain you longer than is necessary to bring to your notice a very important toast, which I am sure you will all unite with me in drinking with very great pleasure. I mean the healths of the Lord Lieutenant and the Magistrates of the County. We are most of us aware of the varied duties these gentlemen who hold responsible positions have to perform. Their positions are no hidden positions. They stand out against the

sky-line of public duty, as it were, and all their actions, by observation and report in the papers, are brought clearly before us at the bar of popular opinion.

In such circumstances as these it would indeed be astonishing if they contrived to please everybody, and I would be claiming for these gentlemen an attribute they would be the last to claim were I to say that they always pleased everybody. Such a course is manifestly impossible. Human opinions differ—many men, many minds; but if you will consider a moment I think you will agree with me that the actions of our Magistrates have always met with the approval of the large majority of those who have observed the way in which their duties are performed, and that justice and mercy are well balanced in their judicial minds. The eminently successful manner in which the Lord Lieutenant has always carried out his duties, and the way in which his social qualities have made themselves felt, must be a cause of as great satisfaction to him as it is to us. His kindness and charity, the interest he takes in our County amusements and meetings, are very gratifying to all his neighbours, and those who know him only by name. Publicly and privately he is an ornament to the County, and I will ask you to drink the healths of —, the Lord Lieutenant, and the Magistrates present this evening, coupling the latter with the name of Mr. —.

XLIX.—THE COUNTY MAGISTRATES. [*Reply for the Magistrates.*]

Gentlemen,—

Your chairman has proposed the healths of myself and my brother Magistrates in such very flattering terms that I feel somewhat at a loss to respond to his kind eulogium and the warm manner in which the toast has been received by all present. Your chairman has mentioned the almost universal satisfaction which my colleagues and myself have given in our interpretation of the law; but when you come to look a little into the matter, I think you will see that it is not so much due to us as to the plain directions which we have received, and the assistance that has been rendered to us on so many occasions by those who have put the facts so clearly before us. There are certain punishments to be awarded, and we

have to consider whether in our opinion the facts stated or elicited are to be interpreted in such and such a way. It tends materially to our assistance when we have a clear statement put before us, for then we have but to administer the law upon the principles of justice and mercy. It has been our privilege to act thus, and we are all, I am sure, pleased to think that in so acting we have had the concurrence of such men as our friends here, whose sound common sense and integrity render them very valuable critics. We have, at any rate, endeavoured to do our duty, regardless of public opinion ; but when that opinion, valuable as it unquestionably is, supports us, we feel very happy in having succeeded in gaining your applause. Gentlemen, in the names of my colleagues and myself I thank you heartily for the reception you have given to the toast of the Magistrates of this County.

L.—REPLY BY ONE OF THE MAGISTRATES.

Gentlemen,—

As the hour is waxing late I will not detain you. It is our duty to see that people are not supplied with liquor after twelve o'clock, and therefore I must be brief in my remarks. I have to thank you, sir, and all the other gentlemen present for the very kind way in which the toast of the Magistrates has been proposed and received. We have always endeavoured to bear in mind that justice is kind and the quality of mercy must not be strained. You may depend upon it, that although hard cases may occasionally crop up, the general tendency through the length and breadth of the land is not on the side of severity but of leniency. We do not forget that mercy is the true interpreter of justice, but there are cases when mercy would be misinterpreted as fear and would consequently be misplaced. A suitable severity frequently prevents crime. The law is only a terror for evil-doers ; no honest citizen need fear it, and therefore, when it is necessary to put the law in force with severity and rigour it is presupposed that the offender is not an honest citizen, but an old hand upon whom leniency would be wasted. On the other hand there are many cases when leniency is true mercy, when a caution will suffice to prevent a repetition of the offence. This can be seen by observation of temperament and condition, education and environment

of the accused. So when you hear of "Justices' justice," put yourselves in their place, hear the evidence in the mass, and then decide for yourselves whether, knowing all they know, you would not have done likewise. Gentlemen, I will not detain you longer. Once more I thank you very heartily for the manner in which you have received this toast.

SECTION V.

TOASTS SOCIAL.

WEDDINGS—CHRISTENINGS—BIRTHDAYS—FRIENDLY.

LI.—THE BRIDE AND BRIDEGROOM

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

Fashion, I am informed, has decreed that speeches shall cease to be made at wedding breakfasts ; but, admirable as the rule is, and willingly as we observe it, in all other respects, we must honour it in the breach instead of in the observance, so far as the Bride and Bridegroom are concerned. It is a pretty custom, this drinking of healths, conjuring up visions of days when there was a brighter glamour of romance round the events of everyday life than there seems to be now. So I think it is especially appropriate that the old custom should be observed on occasions such as this, for however dull and commonplace life may seem nowadays, compared with the more picturesque life of our ancestors, weddings, at any rate, remind us that romance is not dead, and that love is as young and as beautiful as ever. Let us drain our glasses to the Bride and Bridegroom, wishing them health and happiness ; may prosperity attend them and success in all that goes to make up material well-being ; more than all, may the love which animates them to-day burn as bright and steadfast as each succeeding anniversary comes round, so that all of us who have had the privilege of being here to-day may be glad hereafter to remember that we assisted at the opening of an absolutely happy story of married life. Ladies and gentlemen—"the Bride and Bridegroom" : may God bless them both.

LII.—THE BRIDE AND BRIDEGROOM.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

I must beg your kind attention for a few moments while I propose to you a toast which I know you will all honour with great and heartfelt pleasure—with as much pleasure as it gives me to propose it, and I assure you that is saying a good deal. I mean, as you have already guessed—Health and Happiness to the Bride and Bridegroom. We have this day assisted at a ceremony, perhaps the most interesting, as it certainly is one of the most solemn, ceremonies of our social life. Two young people have just now in our presence united themselves for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, till death do part them. May their lives be so guided and their path so laid for them that no evil thing nor poverty come near them, and that their loving hands united for many years may keep death at bay. Ladies and gentlemen, if this is a solemn occasion it is also a joyful one. We have around us many smiling and merry faces—some happy in the recollection of their experience, others, I may perhaps say, happy in the anticipation. Gentlemen, when I look upon your fair partners, the bridesmaids, I envy you. Never had young men such a chance; and if the ladies are half as good as they look you should have no hesitation—or rather, perhaps you will have great hesitation—in making a selection, when all are so charming. But now I ask you all to fill your glasses, and standing up drink to the health, long life, and happiness of Mr. and Mrs. —. May their years be happy and their closing days far distant. May all matrimonial joys be theirs, and may we reckon them among our friends for many years to come. The health and happiness of the Bride and Bridegroom, if you please.

LIII.—THE NEWLY MARRIED COUPLE.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

I must call upon your attention for a moment, and though I am loth to interrupt any little confidences between the young gentlemen and their fair partners by proclaiming silence so suddenly, still I think they will excuse me, for I may not have another opportunity to say what I have to say, and I am sure they *will*. I have now to propose the health of the Newly Married Couple, and long

life and happiness to them. This toast is not the mere formality it may in some cases appear. All of us present are acquainted with the Bride who is leaving us to-day, for what we are sure will prove a very happy home, with the husband of her choice. We all do not know him, but even those who have not the pleasure of his acquaintance—I say “the pleasure” advisedly—are certain that he must be a good fellow and an English gentleman, or our dear young friend, Miss —, would not have selected him for her life’s partner. We all lose in her gain, but we are nevertheless happy in seeing *her* so happy, and we will rejoice with her to-day, hoping at no distant date to welcome her and her manly husband amongst us once again. Ladies and gentlemen, I give you the toast—Health, Long Life, and Happiness to Mr. and Mrs. —; and I say, from the bottom of my heart, God bless them!

LIV.—ANOTHER ON A SIMILAR OCCASION.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

It is my privilege to ask you to honour the toast of the day—the Bride and Bridegroom. If a long acquaintance with the young people who have this morning cast in their lot together can constitute a right to propose their health and prosperity, I certainly have a claim. I have known them pretty well all their young lives, and no one rejoices more truly than I do to see their happiness thus assured. They love each other wisely and well. They have every prospect of true happiness—the love and esteem of a very large circle of friends, and enough of worldly goods to bestow. The Bridegroom has the satisfaction of feeling that he is envied by all the young men in the parish; and the Bride is perhaps conscious that many young ladies regard her with as envious eyes as such an unselfish nature as hers could allow to exist, and as much jealousy as the regard all have for her will permit any lady to feel. But this indeed is a very small matter; we may envy, but do not grudge her and her husband the happiness we are certain they will find together. We wish them a long and happy life, with silver and golden wedding-days in store for them, surrounded by those they love. Ladies and gentlemen, I need not insist upon your responding heartily to the toast, since you all feel as I do. May every blessing and happiness attend the Bride and Bridegroom, and long life to them!

LV.—RESPONSE OF THE BRIDEGROOM.

Mr. —, and Ladies and Gentlemen,—

My dear wife and I are extremely obliged to you for the very kind and friendly manner in which our health has been just proposed and received. I am sure I do not deserve all the good things that have been said of me, but I will try to deserve them, and to be worthy of the great treasure which Mr. and Mrs. — have committed to my care. I trust you will pardon the imperfection of my speech—the novelty of my position as a Bridegroom will perhaps plead for my embarrassment; but I am deeply sensible of your kindness, and my dear wife wishes me to thank you most heartily and affectionately for your kind expressions and good wishes towards her. I can say no more than that I sincerely thank you all for your kindness in drinking our health.

LVI.—REPLY BY THE BRIDEGROOM, INCLUDING
A PROPOSED TOAST OF THE BRIDESMAIDS.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

I rise with great diffidence after the very high terms in which the health of my dear wife and myself has been proposed, for I am sure I cannot properly thank my friend Mr. —, nor you, ladies and gentlemen, for the very kind way in which you have responded to the toast, and for your generous good wishes for our happiness. I am sure *I* shall be happy, and I will do my utmost to make my wife so; so that she may look back upon this day without regret at having left her home and so many loving relatives and kind friends. We both thank you greatly, and highly appreciate all the tokens of regard you have showered upon us. But before I sit down I have to propose to you a toast. There are some young ladies here to whom my wife is greatly indebted, and to whom I owe a debt of gratitude for preparing her for the altar this morning. I mean, of course, the Bridesmaids. These young ladies have added a grace to the ceremony and a beauty to this assembly which is acknowledged by all, and in my wife's name and my own I thank them for their invaluable attention, trusting that ere long they may each and all be in the happy position to choose their own bridesmaids, and be as well supported as Mrs. — has been this morning. Gentlemen, I am sure you will join me in drinking health and "speedy promotion" to the Bridesmaids to-day.

LVII.—RESPONSE TO THE TOAST OF THE BRIDES-
MAIDS. [*By the Best Man.*]

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

You see before you a fortunate and an unfortunate man—a sort of two single gentlemen rolled into one. Fortunate in being the mouthpiece of so many charming young ladies ; unfortunate in being so unfitted to give their views and opinions due expression. I am sure they are all delighted to have been of use to-day. I can only guess at their feelings, never having served in a similar capacity ; but I am certain they are all pleased to see their old friend so happily married, and determined to follow such a good example when gentlemen turn up—after their own hearts ! Where the eyes of mankind have been I cannot tell ; but I confess it is not saying much for bachelor tastes if they permit my fair friends to be bridesmaids again. For my own part I won't confess too much. You shall see—and now with this mysterious hint I will sit down again, thanking you for the very cordial manner in which the health of the Bridesmaids has been received, and expressing the hope that the bachelors will not permit such sweet blossoms to “waste their sweetness on the desert air.” So, gentlemen, choose partners, and lead out the Bridesmaids, on whose behalf I thank you.

LVIII.—THE GROOMSMEN. [*Proposed by an intimate friend of the family.*]

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

I will not detain you more than a moment or two ; but I wish to sum up the toasts we have heard to-day by testifying to the energy and usefulness of the gentlemen who have conduced not a little to the hilarity of the breakfast. I mean the Groomsmen ; and perhaps the ladies will honour the toast also—if they have been pleased with their partners, as judging by their merry faces I think they have. I trust ere the year is out we may hear of these young gentlemen playing a principal part in a ceremony similar to that we have seen performed to-day ; and I am sure we wish the bachelors all success in their wooing. Gentlemen and ladies, the Groomsmen, if you please.

LIX.—RESPONSE TO THE FOREGOING TOAST.

Ladies and Gentlemen—particularly Ladies,—

Speaking for myself and my fortunate companions, I thank you all very heartily for proposing and for honouring our healths. We have had such a pleasant easy task, for all arrangements have been so excellently planned, and the ladies who have honoured us with their society have been so uniformly kind—being all dressed alike their conduct *would* be uniform no doubt—that we have had a good time, and really deserve no thanks. But we are delighted to see our old friend — so happy, and wedded under such bright auspices. May the present happiness be but a faint gleam of the pure and perfect joys that true married happiness can attain. We are all very glad that we have been permitted to make our appearance on this joyful occasion, and we thank you sincerely for your toast—for the kind way it was proposed, and the flattering manner in which you have honoured it, which has been a greater recompense than we deserve.

CHRISTENING PARTY.

LX.—THE LITTLE STRANGER. [*Proposed by the Godfather.*]

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

I must call upon you to fill your glasses once more, and join with me in wishing health, long life, and prosperity to the Little Stranger, whom we have this day introduced into the Christian brotherhood. There can be no doubt that the boy [or girl]—who will be formally introduced to us presently—is the finest and handsomest child that ever lived on earth. Of that we may all rest assured. It may well serve as a model, and we shall perhaps find, as years go on, that it may even be improved upon by the happy and proud parents of the little Christian whose health I wish you all to drink most heartily. It is with no little satisfaction that I find myself here to-day in this capacity of sponsor. I have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. — for many years, and if his charming wife and I are not actually such old friends, she has made my visits to this house so pleasant that I feel quite like

an old friend of hers also. Many of you here have had the happiness of knowing Mr. and Mrs.—— more intimately, perhaps, than I have ; but I yield to none in the sincerity of my wishes for their happiness, and in my good wishes for the long life and happiness of (here insert names of child), who will, if [he] follow in the footsteps of [his] parents, be an ornament to society and a comfort to the family. Ladies and gentlemen, I call upon you to drink the health of —— —, and long life to him [or her] !

LXI.—THE HEALTH OF THE BABY.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

It is with diffidence that I rise in the capacity of God-father to express in the “vulgar tongue,” according to my sponsorship, my feelings on behalf of the fine little fellow we have this day ushered into the Church with all reverence. Although my acquaintance with the young [gentleman] is of the slightest, I am sure he will permit me to speak of him by his Christian name, and to wish all prosperity and happiness to —— —. With such an auspicious commencement as this has been, surrounded as he is with luxury and comfort, under the care of parents of whose friendship we are, as any one might well be, proud—enjoying such advantages as these—his prospects will not be marred by any imperfection in my utterance of our good wishes for him. May the rosy promises of his young life be more than realised. May he long live to be a source of comfort and happiness to his parents, the companion and friend of their middle age, and the prop and stay of their declining years. It may be that successors will come to these honours of the first-born, and I am sure we all most cordially wish everything for our kind host and hostess that may tend to complete their happiness. Fill your glasses, bumpers please, ladies and gentlemen, and drink with all the honours to the health and long life of —— (here mention names). God bless him !

LXII.—REPLY TO THE FOREGOING TOAST.

[*Spoken by the father.*]

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

The touching and hearty manner in which my old friend has so kindly proposed the health of my little child demands my warmest acknowledgments, and your kindness in coming here to-day to welcome the little stranger and to cheer him upon the first stage of his existence, my wife and I accept as a great compliment and highly appreciate. I scarcely know how to thank you for all your good wishes. Many very handsome and flattering things have been said of my wife and myself which we do not deserve. But there is at any rate one point upon which I can speak, and that is the pleasure it has given us to be able to welcome you here to-day. It is always a pleasure to us to see our friends, but when acquaintance and friendship have been matured by regard and esteem it is doubly a pleasure to see one's friends, as on the present occasion; and we hope that we shall see you—if not in similar circumstances, at any rate often enough to cheer us up and enliven our quiet home. We are greatly obliged to the friends who have so kindly consented to stand Sponsors for the little one, and we tender our sincere thanks to them and to you all, for your presence and presents, your company and your good wishes. Before I sit down I would ask you to drink to the Sponsors, the Godmother and the Godfathers, here to-day. Their healths and their families—may they all live long and prosper!

LXIII.—RESPONSE OF THE GODFATHER TO THE TOAST OF HIS HEALTH.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

Speaking for myself and the ladies [or lady and gentleman] who have shared with me the duties of Sponsors, I may say briefly how much pleasure it has given us to officiate upon such a delightful occasion. With such example and precept before him [her] in the persons of his dear parents, we shall find no excuse for interference in training him [her], and though we hope never to lose sight of the lad [young lady], and though, if opportunity arise, we

hope to forward his views in life, we shall only look back upon our self-imposed duty with pleasure and a lively recollection of enjoyment. It has afforded us a very pleasant opportunity to testify to our regard for Mr. and Mrs. —, and we thank Mr. — for so kindly proposing our health, and you for so warmly drinking the toast. Thank you all most heartily.

BIRTHDAY PARTY.

LXIV.—THE HEALTH OF THE HERO OF THE DAY. [*Proposed by an old Friend*]

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

A very pleasant duty has devolved upon me to-day, and I only regret that I cannot do the subject more justice. I have to propose to you the health of Mr. —, and to request you to drink the toast, wishing him many happy returns of the day. As one of his oldest friends I may be permitted to say a few words concerning him, and to express to those around me the great gratification that association with him has given me and all with whom he came in contact. It is enough for me to say how respected he is, and how kind-hearted. Many of us have had examples of his goodness, and all have experienced his kind hospitality and generous entertainment. We recognise many present here who have grown up with our friendship, and it is a great and sure test of truth in friends when we see year after year the same smiling faces round the board. Such a father, husband, and friend as Mr. — is as a beacon set upon a hill, as a lighthouse to the mariner, a guide, philosopher, and friend to youth, a public benefactor, both by the example he sets, and by the good he does in public and private life. Ladies and gentlemen, I am sure you want no word of mine to convince you of our friend's noble and amiable qualities, nor will I longer detain you from the graceful homage we are all desirous to pay in wishing Mr. — many happy returns of his Birthday.

LXV.—REPLY TO THE FOREGOING TOAST.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

My old friend, my very esteemed friend, Mr. —, has almost taken away my breath by the eulogy he has pronounced upon my unworthy self, for I am but too painfully conscious how far short I fall from the ideal he has conjured up for your inspection. But in one sense he is right. I am thankful to have so many kind friends, and very glad to welcome you all. I am not so young as I was, and as we begin to descend the ladder of life we are brought face to face with many rough steps and many "hard lines," which we had not noticed before. But even in these circumstances the support of our friends is enough to cheer us up; and the friendship I can fortunately lay claim to, and which I have enjoyed for so many years, is a cheering light upon my downward road. My friend Mr. — was kind, too kind, to give me credit for the power of retaining friends. But we must remember that as it takes two to make a quarrel, so it takes two to make a friendship. It is not a one-sided arrangement. To you, my friends, much of my happiness must be ascribed, and by your coming here to-day you have given me much pleasure. Thank you very much for your good wishes, and I trust we may all be spared to meet here for many a year to come.

LXVI.—ON COMING OF AGE—"THE HEIR." [*Proposed by an old friend—Trustee or Clergyman.*]

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

The toast of the day has been allotted to me, and highly as I appreciate the honour of having been selected to propose the health of the young Squire, who comes of age to-day, I could wish for your sakes that the task, agreeable though it is, had been entrusted to someone more competent to discharge it. And yet it is possible that my very shortcomings may, in a measure, be a tribute to my subject, for surely it is for what one feels very deeply that it is most difficult to find words. Festivities like the present are perhaps more moving to the old friends of the hero of the occasion than they are to the hero himself; for to us they emphasise the fact that one-and-twenty

years have passed since we gathered here to celebrate the arrival into the world of the infant who is to-day a man, while to him they mark the termination of his state of tutelage and his assumption of the privileges and responsibilities of manhood. In this case the privileges and the responsibilities are great ; it is a goodly heritage to which the young Squire will succeed some day, and a fine old English gentleman whose successor he will be : but " like father, like son " is a good proverb, and we who live here recognise in the son much that we love and admire in the father, see in the heir the imprint of goodness of heart and gentle disposition, the pluck and the manly tenderness which characterise the Squire. And, seeing this, we have good ground for our belief that he will all his life continue to bear without reproach the grand old name of gentleman, as his father and forefathers have done. Between us and him there is something more than personal affection : there is that traditional regard and esteem which has come down from our several ancestors, and which is so peculiarly characteristic of our national life. The compliment we are paying this young man to-day has been paid on this same spot to his progenitors by ours, and we are contributing yet another pleasant association to a place that already is a garner full of them. Ladies and gentlemen, bumpers if you please : long life and happiness to the Heir, whom may God Almighty bless.

LXVII.—REPLY TO THE FOREGOING.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

You have all heard the very touching speech with which my kind old friend has so generously proposed my health, and I am sure I cannot thank him enough for his words and the manner of them, nor can I thank you sufficiently for the way in which you have received the toast. Mr. — has been so kind as to say much good of me. I only hope I deserve it all ; but what good I possess I owe, under Providence, to my parents primarily, and then to my kind and patient instructor himself, who have taught me to look upon the bright side, and to live as an English gentleman. I am fully aware of the great responsibility I have now entered upon, and I hope all here—all the tenantry—will look upon me as their friend, as one who has been placed in a position by Providence to do good :

not to oppress and find fault, but to make good use of the riches committed to my charge, and to give an account to my Master when the great day of reckoning shall have arrived. That is my view of my position. My fathers and your fathers have lived in harmony and peace, in giving and taking for each other's good, for centuries. Let us continue in the same lines, appreciating the responsibilities of owner and occupier, of landlord and tenant, endeavouring to bear each other's burdens, and to live in charity with all men, and when in time we are called away, let us leave to our descendants, as our fathers have left to us, a legacy of freedom and self-respect, with mutual goodwill and regard. My friends, I need say no more. I heartily thank you all for your good wishes, and trust that you will give me your kind assistance as I proceed on my way. Once again I thank you all most sincerely for the manner in which you have received the toast.

LXVIII.—THE TENANTS. [*Proposed by the Landlord or Agent.*]

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

Before we separate I must ask your indulgence for a few minutes while I give you a toast, which I am sure you will heartily join me in drinking. Many of you when driving here this morning were, I have no doubt, struck with the appearance of the land ; and many of you were pleased, I hear, with the kind reception accorded you as you drove along, and the pleasant recognition you received. Well, ladies and gentlemen, the pretty scenes and the kind reception we have met with, the decorations and the welcome, are the work of the tenantry on these estates, and I would call upon you to drink the health of the Tenants and long life to them. I have been here for many years, living, I am glad to say, in peace and harmony, ever trying to do my duty [as a landlord], and receiving much kindness and assistance from my friends here. We have had many improvements since I came here, and I think I may without vanity point to our land and our parish as a model one. We have our troubles occasionally—we should not be mortal were it not so—but I must candidly admit that the tenants of this estate have always been most worthy and excellent men and women, with whom I have had the greatest pleasure to co-operate. I am thankful to remem-

ber that amid all the trying times we have got on so well together, and I trust our connection may last for many years. Ladies and gentlemen who have come here to-day, I trust you will unite with me in drinking to the health of my very good friends the Tenantry, and wish them every happiness and prosperity, a state of things which I on my part will leave nothing undone to secure. I give you "The Tenantry."

LXIX.—REPLY TO THE TOAST OF THE TENANTS.

[*By the Senior Tenant present.*]

Mr. —, Ladies and Gentlemen,—

As the oldest tenant present—and as the oldest person here, I believe—I understand I am best suited to return our very heartfelt thanks to Mr. — and you for proposing and drinking our health so warmly. Mr. — has been so kind as to say something about us Tenants, and I should like to say something about him as a landlord and Squire. I won't say much—not that I couldn't say a great deal of him, and all of it good, too; but perhaps I ought not to detain you by speaking. Still I can say for myself and my friends here, for all the tenants on the estate, that he's a "jolly good fellow"—and nobody can deny it. If we are prosperous—and we needn't go into the question—he has our interest at heart, and has always assisted us. If we are not prosperous, we know he will be considerate, and not visit upon us the results of bad seasons. He knows we try to do our best and pay our rent and be comfortable. We try all we can, and if we succeed he is glad and can rejoice as well as we. I am speaking for all of us when I say that we are a happy and contented parish, respecting our landlord and each other, and glad to have such a Squire about us. Let us drink his health, and wish long life and happiness to him and Mrs — and the children, with all the honours. Hip, hip, hurrah!

"For he's a jolly good fellow,
And so say all of us."

LXX.—SPEECH OF THANKS FOR THE TOAST OF HIS HEALTH, SPOKEN BY THE SQUIRE.

My Friends,—

For I look upon all present as such—I thank you all most heartily for the enthusiastic manner in which the toast of our health has been received, and Mrs. — and myself also wish to express our appreciation of the good feeling that prompted my old friend and good tenant, Mr. —, to propose it. We are very much obliged to him and to you all. It is very seldom that a man hears so much good of himself as I have heard to-day. I am quite sure that it was all well meant, but I am afraid my good friend yonder was carried away by his feelings to paint me in brighter colours than I deserve. At any rate I will not complain of his generosity, but if I have fallen short of all I wished to do—and I feel I have—I must endeavour to live up to the standard you have in your minds set up, and try to make the remainder of my life—which has been passed amongst you, and will continue to be passed here till I am carried into God's Acre yonder—as profitable and as pleasant to all my neighbours as I can. I can with gratitude and thankfulness look back and recall much kindness which I and my family have received at your hands, my friends ; and I hope in the future our mutual relations will remain as pleasant as they have been in the past. For richer, for poorer, for better—not for worse, I hope—I am here, and at your disposal, till death do us part, and I believe and feel we shall continue our pleasant relations. Thank you again very sincerely, my friends, for your warm welcome to myself and my family, in their names and my own

LXXI.—SPEECH FOR A SILVER WEDDING.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

On such an occasion as the present it is not necessary for me to inflict a long speech upon you, for I am sure you are all in accord with my sentiments, and will agree with me in the expressions and remarks which I am about to offer. We are here to-day as guests of our most highly esteemed friends, Mr. and Mrs. —, the twenty-fifth anniversary of whose wedding-day we are so delighted to celebrate. Such congratulations—and I am sure none will be more

heartily than yours—it would be a pleasure to us all to offer in any circumstances, and any where; but we feel the enjoyment more particularly under our friend's own roof-tree, seated, or rather upstanding, to drink their health, at their own hospitable table, amongst their children, and other relatives, and friends.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have had the honour of the friendship of our kindly host, Mr. —, for more years than I would care to hint at if that long friendship had not been a source of congratulation to myself. I am conceited, some may, perhaps, think, in claiming the honour; but I am proud of my friendship, and think, in my selfish view—you must excuse me for saying publicly what I have often thought—that I am not altogether an unworthy citizen when so greatly honoured as I feel I am.

You are all of you as well aware as I, how excellent a man our host is. I venture to say to his face, that no kinder husband and father, no more steadfast friend, no more cheerful companion exists amongst us, although we have many kind friends and worthy neighbours in our midst.

I remarked just now on my, I think, proper pride in possessing the confidence and friendship of Mr. —; but, have we not more to congratulate ourselves upon in the charming intimacy and friendship of our hostess, whose many acts of kindness and courtesy are in all our minds? Let us, then, while heartily offering them our congratulations, hope that they may be spared for many years to fill the position which they at present adorn.

Twenty-five years, ladies and gentlemen, is a long spell. It exceeds one-third of the generally allotted span of our mundane existence. For that space of time, however, our dear friends have been united in hymeneal bonds, the most sacred ties by which we mortals can be bound. All those years they have stood as an example of domestic felicity and of Christian virtues—patterns for us all. We elders have seen the “olive branches” growing up round their table; we have watched with interest and affection the sons springing up like the young plants, and the girls, the graceful “polished corners” of the Psalmist—the prop and stay of the domestic temple, the ornaments of this truly domestic hearth. We have seen sorrow and trouble shadow the house, but we have rejoiced and wondered at the fortitude and the pluck and the Christian resignation with which such trials have been endured. Let us make this our example; let us profit by it too. . . .

I will not detain you longer; it only remains for me, on this most auspicious anniversary, to call upon you to

fill your glasses, full bumpers, and with all your hearts drink the toast I propose, viz :—

Health, Happiness, and Prosperity to Mr. and Mrs. —, with many Happy Returns of their Wedding-Day. May every blessing attend them in future and for evermore. Now then, three times three ! Hip, hip, hurrah !

LXXII.—ANOTHER PROPOSAL.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

My friends, I have been requested this evening to undertake a duty, the *duty* sense of which is entirely lost in the pleasure it affords me to perform it. It is an act of friendship, and I feel honoured in having been requested to propose the toast which you are all anticipating. My object, as you have divined, is to call upon you to drink the Health and future continued Happiness of our kind Host and Hostess, whose Silver Wedding we are celebrating to-day. We are sure that the cup of our host's enjoyment is full as is his quiver of offshoots, worthy branches of the parent trees. Gentlemen and ladies, we must unite most heartily in this toast. On such a day no melancholy retrospects, no feeling of unpleasantness, must be permitted to intrude from any source. Troubles come in time to us all. But instead of thinking of the crosses and worries, the cares and difficulties which may during twenty-five years have come upon us, let us rather thank Heaven that we have had the strength to surmount them, and to enjoy the blessings we possess !

Five and twenty years appears a lifetime to the young, but Time has dealt leniently with Mr. and Mrs. —, whose health I am about to propose. Old Time, the age-ing one, has not dared to lay an unkind finger on such kindly heads. On the contrary, he spares them ; he respects them, and though he delights in plaguing less deserving mortals, he passes smiling by our host and hostess year after year.

Youthfulness, merriment, good-humour, cheerfulness, sit at their board and defy Time. Age cannot wither, and it never will wither, those kindly hearts, those generous spirits, which preside over this household. They ward off his attacks and reach the Silver Wedding-Day with hearts young, and faces as bright as polished silver itself, reflecting happiness all around them ! We know the

Christian virtues they possess, the *bonhomie* and kindness they practise, the silent charity which desires no reward, the unostentatious practice of good works.

So, ladies and gentlemen, "uprouse ye" merrily. It is not our "opening day"—it is the twenty-fifth anniversary of a happy day, often to be overtaken, let us hope, in future years. The sparkling silver will change gloriously into the Golden Wedding-Day; the long, happy vista of earthly bliss for our dear friends, whose health we drink, will extend adown the path of life. The spring is gone, it may be; the summer is passing, perhaps; but there is yet the golden-lined autumn of their lives to come, when the harvest of good seeds shall be reaped in troops of friends and loving memories. There will be no winter for them; the Golden Wedding-Day will mingle imperceptibly, in happiness, peacefully, with the still more radiant Eternity where, hand in hand, as in life, our beloved friends shall walk through bliss unspeakable for evermore!

It needs not my imperfect words and halting speech to indicate to you the way in which the toast should be honoured. I will, therefore, merely give it you, and beg you in heartfelt manner—as I am sure you all will—to drink to Mr. and Mrs. — with hearty congratulations on this anniversary—Health and Happiness in future, and Many Happy Returns of the Day. God bless them!

LXXIII.—REPLY TO TOAST OF "SILVER WEDDING." [*By the Husband.*]

Mr. —, Ladies and Gentlemen,—

You will, I am sure, compassionate me in the position in which I find myself. I am not, of course, referring to the matrimonial state, but to the position in which I have been placed by the—as far as I am personally concerned—undeserved eulogies of my old friend who has so eloquently proposed my wife's health and my own, and who has spoken so highly of all our surroundings.

Ladies and gentlemen, what can I say to thank you save that my dear wife and myself *do* thank you from the bottom of our hearts? In her name and my own I must tell you that we do not deserve the praise you have lavished on us: but I may also tell you that for more than twenty-five years my dear wife has exercised an influence for good upon me; so unselfish has she been, so kind and

affectionate, that she has moulded my coarser clay into something better and finer than it would have been without that gentle, loving influence, that touch of sympathy, that firmness of character, the tact, the power of understanding, which has made my dear wife our guiding star and our chief object of admiration.

I said for "more than twenty-five years" this influence has been over me. Yes: twenty-seven years ago I first met my wife that was to be, and is! Those were happy days—foreshadowing the happier ones yet to arrive for us; and now it is with pardonable pride that I can look around me to-day, here in my own house, after so many years of hard work, of struggle at times, of sorrow and sickness at times, but always cheered by my better half: truly my *better half*—and in later times by the companionship of my children also.

Ladies and gentlemen, one and all, I thank you in the name of all my family. We are delighted to see you here, and if we are spared we hope you will again at some future time honour us with your presence. Talking of "presence" reminds me that we owe you another vote of thanks for your charming gifts, a kindly remembrance of our wedding-day. For these, much thanks! I am sure you will excuse my saying more now. Your kindness has touched us very deeply, and I am unable to proceed further; but you will quite understand how highly, how sincerely, my wife, my children, and myself appreciate and feel your kind expressions, and reciprocate your good wishes. Ladies and gentlemen, once again we thank you from the very bottom of our hearts!

LXXIV.—ANOTHER REPLY. [*By the Husband.*]

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

My valued friend, Mr. —, whose more than kind speech you have just heard, and so very generously endorsed, made some very personal remarks about my wife's age and my own, but he forgot that he is younger than I am, and has no business to chaff his elders after dinner! Time has dealt leniently with us, he said, and in a measure that is true, but if it is the fact that he has not severely scored my face with furrows nor unduly whitened my hair, it is not only to him that my obligation is due. It is not time that ages us so much as care and worry, and it is to the

brave courage and sweet influence of my wife that I owe my freedom from those scourges that break men down so often. Troubles we have known, indeed, and sorrows to which man is born as the sparks fly upward. But troubles shared and sorrows borne together lose half their force, while the joys and happiness that a merciful Providence has bestowed upon us have been doubled by being bestowed upon us jointly. Twenty-five years ago to-day I faced the world full of high hope and with my cup of happiness brimming over, and before you all I declare to-day that though I live to three-score years and ten, and be so strong that I come to fourscore years, I shall never overtake my sense of thankfulness to Almighty God for having bestowed upon me such a mercy as is incarnate in my dear and honoured wife. And as for yourselves, let me speak to you from my heart in my wife's name and in my own. You have very, very kindly—most generously—responded to the toast which our valued friend Mr. — has proposed. Not only for this kindness, but for your presence here to-day, we most heartily thank you. You have honoured us in deed and in word ; have accepted in far too generous a sense my own small merits : but though I say it, you *cannot* overestimate my dear wife. In this sense of goodness she has her "separate estate," unalienable, on which she can draw heavy drafts, always fully honoured at the hands of her friends and acquaintances. Gentlemen and ladies, I endorse your praises in this respect entirely.

So let me tell you again, we thank you, Heaven knows how truly and sincerely, for your kindness and good wishes. May they be fulfilled. If it please God, we shall all meet again in the near future here ; and I trust again in the more distant haven of rest hereafter. Ladies and gentlemen, I echo your sentiments. May you all be happy, as I am—as we are ; and I say to you, as you to me, with all my heart, in the name of all near and dear to me, God bless you every one !

SECTION VI.

SPORTING TOASTS.

FOR CLUB AND HOUSE DINNERS, AND CONVIVIAL
OCCASIONS.

LXXV.—AT A CRICKET* DINNER—"OUR OPPO-
NENTS." [*Proposed by the Captain of the
Victorious Eleven.*]

Gentlemen,—

As chairman of this very pleasant meeting, I have a toast to propose to you which, after what has already passed to-day, and judging by the good feeling which animates us all, I am sure the team of which I have the honour to be captain will drink with much pleasure. The toast is the health of the — Eleven, our courteous and able opponents in the field. We have had a capital game, and if by the glorious uncertainties of Cricket it has so happened that our team has won the match, we are quite ready to acknowledge what trouble we had to make the runs, and to avoid the ready hands in the field, and keep up our stumps, before such bowling as our friends can command. At one time of the play I really began to tremble for our laurels ; it looked as if our hard attempts to snatch victory must surely be defeated. But I am glad for the honour of our club that we won, though I am sure—if my friend the captain of your team will permit me to say so—that if close fielding and steady work deserve success (as they do) we shall not win again in a hurry. Now, gentlemen, I need not detain you much longer. We have had a good battle, and won it, I am glad to say, and I trust

* With the necessary alteration of technical terms these cricket toasts will do equally well for football dinners.

all of us here may long be spared to play the noble English game—a game which brings forth all the manly qualities of the Englishman. Our pluck, endurance, patience, steadiness, and obedience are all required when we enter an eleven. If obedience is the first duty of the soldier, it is not less a very important duty of the members of a cricket eleven. Selfishness must be entirely put aside in cricket. The captain is responsible, and until he be declared unfitted he should be obeyed by all playing members in the field or pavilion, as far as the conduct of the game is concerned. This harmonious working is the secret of success, and by a steady continuance in such a course, with plenty of practice and goodwill, no eleven, however crude at first, need despair of winning its way. Gentlemen, I give you the — Eleven, coupled with the name of Mr. —, that most able captain and cricketer, and my very good and kind friend.

LXXVI.—RESPONSE TO THE FOREGOING TOAST.

[Spoken by the Captain of the opposing Team.]

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice-Chairman, and Gentlemen,—

Your Captain has proposed our health in such very complimentary terms, and expressed himself so kindly towards his beaten but not humiliated adversaries, that I cannot quite decide in my own mind which to admire most—his prowess with the bat and in the field, or his courtesy and eloquence in the cabinet. At any rate I need not try to decide now. I have to thank him for the manner in which the toast was proposed, and you, gentlemen, for the way in which it has been honoured. You won a well-contested match, and without wishing to disparage my excellent team, I think the best men won. But we are not going to sit down and accept this issue as final. We do not intend—and I think my friends will agree with me that we are right—we do not mean to give in. We hope you will meet us again, and on our own ground, where if we cannot entertain you as hospitably and as generously as we have been entertained here—though we will try that too—we will certainly meet you in friendly rivalry and fight our battle over again. As we grow older these harmonious contests are sure to influence us for good, and cement the school or university friendships we have made. They give us much real pleasure, and when we are stiff-jointed and unable to take our place in the field, we shall be able to tell of

many a pleasant game, and shoulder our bats to show how matches were won. Gentlemen of the —— Cricket Club, I will only add my thanks and those of my colleagues for the very kind reception you have given us.

A CRICKET CLUB ANNUAL DINNER.

LXXVII.—SUCCESS TO THE —— CLUB. [*Proposed by the Chairman.*]

Gentlemen,—

You are doubtless anticipating the usual speech from the chair, and I will not keep you in suspense very long nor tire your patience. The report of the club, showing its financial position and the result of the last season's working, has already been placed before you. You will have noticed that the matches in which the club [and ground] engaged were more numerous last season than in the previous years. The receipts from members, and subscriptions, have increased, and there are two very satisfactory points connected with the past season, viz., the funds are in good condition, we having a very respectable balance in hand, and the club has won [nine], lost [four] and drawn [three] of the contests it has engaged in with other elevens.

I am glad to welcome so many new members to our ranks ; but the number must necessarily be limited. We have not accommodation for more than a certain number, and on one or two occasions already some dissatisfaction has been expressed at the want of accommodation. Well, gentlemen, the committee have done all they can, and have succeeded in keeping the club solvent. But if more accommodation for match days is to be provided, and the committee were glad to see that ladies mustered in larger numbers to encourage them, they would suggest a slightly increased entrance fee upon big match days, or the issue of season tickets to friends of the members duly introduced. This would give them a fund to draw upon and entitle the holders to seats.

There have been no accidents of any consequence, and some excellent cricket has been shown. We have now a very excellent eleven, and I am happy to be able to announce that there are some promising "colts" in the district, who will have an opportunity of trying their mettle on an early day in the ensuing season.

I am glad to see that our noble and manly national game still keeps its hold upon the country. I do not think cricket was ever more popular. We have seen in various parts of England a Colonial eleven carrying nearly everything before them—by patience when an up-hill game had to be played, and by brilliant dash and rapid scoring eventually pull a game “out of the fire.” What man has done man may do, and I hope the day is not far distant when not only one English eleven, but many, will be able, by putting aside jealousies and working in full harmony to come out victors against any Colonial team. On the other hand, we ought to rejoice that our kindred beyond sea have such a relish for the old English sport, and prove so readily that they are real chips of the old block, possessing all the good qualities of the race of Englishmen. There is a good deal to be said about the game, but as so many of you here are much more familiar with the practice than I am, I will spare you my theories as to the mode of playing it; and my moral reflections I am sure you will be content to take, like the report, as read. Gentlemen, I have now only to give you the toast I rose so long ago to propose, and for which you have so kindly waited. I will try your patience no longer. Success to the — Cricket Club, and I will couple the toast with the name of the Hon. Secretary, Mr. —, to whose exertions the club owes so much of its success and high position.

LXXVIII.—RESPONSE TO THE FOREGOING TOAST.

[By the Hon. Secretary of the Club.]

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice-Chairman, and Gentlemer,—

It is very gratifying to me to hear my name coupled with the success of the — Cricket Club, and the feeling ought to be—but, alas! for poor human nature, is not—diminished by the reflection that the honour is in great part undeserved. The energetic Committee, of which I am only a member and the mouthpiece, are really the working body, but what I have done I can assure you I have done *con amore*. I am very fond of the game, and at one time took some little part in it. Should circumstances and occupations permit, I may again be able to put aside the pen for the ball, and sing, “Oh, willow, willow,” when I grasp my old bat once more. I am very glad that the club is in such a flourishing condition, in the ledgers as

well as in the scoring books. The matches have been won by sheer hard work and drilling, and to this increasing success the club is mainly indebted to Mr. —, our energetic captain. The success is his, and his merry men have "backed him up" well. He has been bold as a bowler, and his manner of "driving" shows how well he is fitted to handle a "team." We all have recognised his "powers of defence," and have never known him "stumped" in argument or repartee. With such qualities he appears *cut out* for the position of captain, and I hope that the time is *long off* when he will retire. That he will make a *point of long stopping* with us, and "running out" the eleven to victory for many more seasons, is, I am sure, our heartfelt wish. Gentlemen, in thanking you for the honour you have done me, I would crave permission to propose the health of Mr. —, the Captain of the Eleven, and long life to him.

LXXIX.—RESPONSE OF THE CAPTAIN TO THE FOREGOING TOAST.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—

My friend the Honorary and honourable Secretary has made a speech so bristling with cricket terms as to be almost *wicked*! and I feel in danger of following his example in that sense—but I forbear. I am quite unable to meet him on that ground; he may claim to score off me there. But I am none the less grateful to him and to you, gentlemen, for the very clever and pleasant manner in which the last toast was proposed and received. "The labour we delight in physics pain," and so I cannot lay claim to all the goodness my friend has attributed to me, for I am so fond of cricket, so attached to its traditions, and I may add so attached to the club, that any inconvenience or trouble falls from me when the necessities or the demands of the game or the club make themselves known, or are made known to me by my friend your unwearied secretary. The eleven last season was a very good one, and I must in mere fairness remark that if our men had not displayed pluck and determination, if they had not worked so well together, the labours of the captain would have been immensely increased. It is always a grateful theme with me, and when we have such men in the eleven as —, and —, there need be no question of a captain

for the team ; and no fear of defeat with, ordinary luck, while we possess such bowlers as —, and such sure fieldsmen as —, and —. It is an honour to captain such a team, and I feel it so, I assure you. Gentlemen, I thank you heartily for your good wishes, and for the kindness with which you have listened to my imperfect speech and attempt at oratory.

AT A LOCAL CRICKET DINNER.

LXXX.—THE HEALTH OF THE HOST. [*Proposed by the Eldest Visitor.*]

Gentlemen,—

I must ask you to fill me a bumper fair, and drink to the toast I am about to propose. I feel I need not call upon you to drink it heartily, for that I know you will do when I tell you that it is the health of our kind and worthy Host which is to be honoured. We all know how considerate he has ever been to us, how he permits us to use his park and to pitch our wickets in his grounds, and how he has always entertained us. We do not need reminding of these things. We all treasure them from year to year, and look forward with the greatest pleasure to our match in the park. There is no necessity for me to dwell upon the manly virtues of our Host. He is so well known and so universally respected that nothing that I might say could by any possibility add to his popularity, or to the high position he occupies in the minds of all in the county and beyond it. Gentlemen, I will only ask you to give three hearty cheers for Mr.—, our kind entertainer ; and while thanking him for his hospitality, let us show ourselves worthy of it by keeping within the bounds of cheerfulness and decorum. The health of Mr. —, our Host, with our hearty and respectful good wishes for Mrs. — and the family.

LXXXI.—REPLY TO THE FOREGOING TOAST.

[*Spoken by the Host.*]

Gentlemen,—

My friend Mr. — has been very kind in proposing my health, and I am greatly flattered and gratified by the manner in which he acquitted himself and the way in which you responded. I can only say I am very glad that you think it worth while to come here for your contest at cricket. I am always glad to encourage, so far as is in my power, healthy exercise and honest enjoyment. My park is open so long as you wish to use it, and I am glad to learn from my men and from my own observation that you and other young gentlemen and neighbours come here and enjoy yourselves without doing harm to the trees and grass. It is very disheartening for an owner of property to find his trees injured and his sward cut about by thoughtless persons, and I appeal to your good sense and good feelings to use and not abuse the chances you have. It looks churlish to close a large park, but some of my neighbours have done so because the visitors did not respect the privilege they enjoyed. I am glad to think that you and your friends have now for so long enjoyed any little hospitality I am so happy to dispense. It is as great a pleasure to me to see you here enjoying yourselves as it is for you to come here. I shall be always glad to welcome you and your wives and children and your sweethearts, and when you come over next time bring them with you to watch your game and to enjoy themselves as much as they can. I now have only to thank you in my family's name and my own for drinking our healths, and to wish you all "Many happy returns of the day"—if it has been, as I believe it has, a pleasant one to you all as well as to myself.

AT A REGATTA DINNER.

LXXXII.—SUCCESS TO THE REGATTA. [*Proposed by the Chairman.*]

Gentlemen,—

We have come to the toast of the day, and, as you will readily admit, it is an interesting one to all present. The occasion of the — Regatta is no light one to be dismissed

with a few words. It is now an annual institution, and its success or failure means a good deal, not only to those immediately interested, but to all who are connected with the — Club. I am glad to be able to chronicle a marked success to-day. The prizes we have been enabled to distribute have met with approval and acceptance; and if our crew did not carry off many laurels, they were, if defeated, certainly not disgraced, and we would rather see them win upon other water than their own. We prefer our visitors to carry off the prizes if they can. We are as pleased to see them win as to win ourselves, and the best men must win—of that we feel assured. We have done fairly well, but might have done better, and while condoling with the unsuccessful we can warmly congratulate the victors upon their success.

Let me now say a few words respecting the club and the business side of the question. The finances are in a pretty good condition. The treasurer can inform you that we have £—— in hand after all expenses are provided for. But I regret to see that many members are in arrear. The committee do not wish to enforce the rules with unnecessary strictness, but it is not fair upon the other members that some should be permitted to ignore one rule when they would not neglect, nor overlook, an omission in others of another rule. We will at once call upon those members who have not paid their subscriptions to do so, and in any defaulting cases we will proceed as by our bye-laws, permitted, and framed for such a contingency.

The general arrangements of the club have been much improved, and the success of the arrangements is in a great measure, if not altogether, due to the untiring efforts of Mr. —, our most efficient honorary secretary. To him we all owe a deep debt of gratitude, and with his name I will conclude my remarks. I will call upon you all to drink to the health of Mr. —, to whose tact and patience the prosperity and popularity of the club are in a great measure due. Gentlemen, a bumper if you please for the Honorary Secretary.

LXXXIII.—A REGATTA DINNER. [*Reply of the Hon. Secretary.*]

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—

I trust you will excuse me if, in my endeavours to thank you for your kind expressions of goodwill, I fail to make myself as intelligible as I wish. The honour you have done me is unexpected, and all the more embarrassing to me on that account. It is very generous of our chairman to speak of me in such terms. Though I have endeavoured to do my duty I have never done more; and therefore, conscientiously speaking, I have no claim to your thanks. But it is very gratifying, nevertheless, to feel and to hear that in the estimation of one's friends, and in the opinion of the chairman, one has succeeded in one's endeavours, which have, at any rate, the merit of disinterestedness. The Club House has been a very pleasant *rendezvous*, but not all the efforts of the committee and secretary would have accomplished everything without the hearty and pleasant co-operation of the members. The committee have been indefatigable and untiring in their efforts to make the club and its arrangements successful; and we think we have in a measure succeeded. Personally I feel much gratified at the very kind manner in which the toast of my health has been received, and I thank you all heartily and sincerely for the way you have honoured me by proposing it.

LXXXIV.—THE HEALTH OF THE COMPETING CREWS. [*Proposed by the Chairman.*]

Gentlemen,—

I have it in my mind to propose to you a double toast, and one which you will all accept with pleasure. I mean the health of two competing crews here present. We were much interested to-day in the races for the Grand Challenge Cup, the final issue of which, as you are aware, was limited to the two boats whose crews are here present. We were beaten, and—well, not badly beaten. We accept with resignation our defeat, but we intend as soon as possible to reverse the verdict and claim the cup. There will be opportunities for us to retrieve our laurels soon, and we intend to try to regain some of them at any rate. Meanwhile I call upon you to drink first to our guests the —

Crew, who have so well and honourably defeated us ; and secondly, I will ask you to keep a little cheer for our own Eight, who struggled so gamely to pick up the race. Gentlemen, though they be opponents in these contests, I couple with all amicable feelings and good wishes the toasts of the — Crew and the Eight of the — Club.

LXXXV.—REPLY TO THE FOREGOING TOAST

[By the Stroke of the Successful Boat.]

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—

It is with much diffidence that I rise to reply to the toast which you, sir, have so handsomely proposed, and to which all your members here present have so kindly responded. I can assure you we think we are very lucky in having carried off the prize ; and if anything can add to our satisfaction in having wrested it from such a fine crew, it is the generous and noble manner in which that may-be temporary defeat has been received and our success welcomed. Such hearty kindness as we have met at your hands increases the value of the prize four-fold. We appreciate it all, I assure you, and although I cannot—and you will not expect me to—say I hope you will regain it, I am certain of one thing : that never was a losing race more pluckily rowed, and never was a defeat more admirably sustained nor more courteously acknowledged.

We have had many pleasant meetings during the period in which I have been stroking the Eight of the — Club, and it has fallen to my lot, I am glad to say, to have been partly the means of winning some prizes ; but we value our prize to-day most highly. We trust your crew will pay us a visit at our regatta, and in the name of our club, the —, I bid you all welcome. Gentlemen, once more in the name of the Eight of — I thank you for the honour you have done us in drinking our healths.

AN ARCHERY MEETING.

LXXXVI.—THE ARCHERY CLUB. [*Proposed by the President or Chairman at the Prize Distribution.*]

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

We are here assembled on a very interesting occasion, and it is my pleasing and agreeable duty to have to present to several amongst you the prizes you have so well won to-day. There is the old and time-worn joke of the young ladies and *beaux*, the repetition of which would only betray a narrow-mindedness on my part; so I will spare you all jokes and puns on the subject of archery, and come at once to business.

You do not need to be told that archery is of very ancient origin, and that many of England's victories are owing to her bow-men. We were famous for drawing the long-bow in those days as well as the cross-bow. But in these modern times archery is a mere pastime, though I am glad to see so many good shots in this club. I should be very sorry to be in front of the target, I assure you, when you young ladies and gentlemen are practising. I congratulate the prize-winners heartily; and to those who have not now succeeded in carrying off a prize, I say persevere, practise: steady hands and hopeful hearts will carry you through much greater difficulties than these. I will now call upon the winners to come up and take their prizes, which they have so well won.

LXXXVII.—SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT (OR CHAIRMAN). [*After the Prize Distribution.*]

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

Before we separate to-day I have to say a few words; and I will not detain you long, as the ceremony in which we have been engaged has kept us some time already. We have had a most interesting meeting. I look upon archery and tennis, and those field sports in which ladies and gentlemen can unite, as greatly beneficial to both sexes. There are many shy men who are enabled to overcome their timidity in ladies' society when their minds are occupied with a bow or a racket. The secret of ladies' conversation, I believe, lies in the occupation of their hands. They work and talk; the

man fidgets and cannot talk. If there were no other reason than the mingling of the sexes on these occasions, I still think archery would be a beneficial pastime. But it does more : it trains the eye and brain, it steadies the nerves ; and ladies will appreciate this next reason—it improves the figure and carriage ! These are perhaps merely physical advantages, but it has its moral attributes. It is recreation pure and simple ; it stimulates to healthy exertion and pleasant rivalry ; it promotes good-fellowship and friendship, removes stiffness ; and unkindness disappears, let us hope, in the archery ground. No ill-feeling *ought* to arise. No jealousy *ought* to find place in such a sport at once innocent and interesting. Let us in our aims and amusements, as well as in our higher occupations, put away all envy and malice, and our pleasures will turn into blessings, and we shall all be nearer the attainment of the good and the true. Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for the patience with which you have listened to me, and I wish all success to the — Archery Club.

AN ANGLING CLUB.

LXXXVIII.—PROSPERITY TO THE — ANGLING CLUB. [*Proposed by the President at the Annual Dinner.*]

Gentlemen,—

There is only one more toast which I will inflict upon you this evening, but I am sure you will heartily respond to it. The toast is—Prosperity to the Anglers' Club. We have all been fishing to-day, but I am sure you do not fish for compliments from me respecting your successes. We have had a good haul provided for our meeting, and though it is not much in my line to make jokes, I will say that every man Jack of you seemed to be enjoying himself on his own hook—which I venture to doubt if the fish did !

Now this remark leads me to say something about the sport itself. Old Isaac Walton declared that, "God never did make a more calm, quiet, innocent recreation than angling." But there are many worthy people who declare that fishing is very cruel ; they say we torture the fish ; I maintain we do not ; no true fisherman will do so. If, as we can judge from our own experience, the terror of

pain and death lies in the anticipation, then the fish, having no anticipation of death, do not suffer mentally at all. Bodily suffering, I think, is not great in fish. That they give us play enough at times we know ; but the tough, leathery mouth is not sensitive to the hook as we estimate feeling, and if we kill our fish at once there is little or no pain. With the bait it is a different thing, and I am afraid we must plead guilty ; but fly-fishing and artificial baits will serve as well on most occasions.

Gentlemen, I have not much to say. Our club has been long existent, and this is not the first time I have had the pleasure of addressing you from the chair. We have had a satisfactory increase of members of late, and I am glad to inform you that the funds are in good condition. I will now conclude by calling upon you to drink prosperity to the — Angling Club.

A CYCLING CLUB.

LXXXIX.—PROSPERITY TO THE — CYCLING CLUB. [*Proposed by the President at the Annual Dinner*].

Gentlemen,—

The toast of prosperity to the — Cycling Club which I now rise to propose is certain to receive cordial acknowledgment from you, however inadequate my words in proposing it may be. Cycling has long ceased to be purely an athletic sport, and although I suppose everyone here can remember the days when the cycling man was regarded as being necessarily an athlete, and the cycling woman was eyed askance as being fast if nothing worse, yet the memory only arouses feelings of amused incredulity now. Fashion followed the lead given it by common sense, and in Battersea Park was fought the campaign which resulted in the cycle becoming a permanent institution in English life. A lot of water has flowed under the bridge since then. The cycling trade has developed into a great industry giving employment to thousands of hands throughout the world. The man or woman who cannot cycle is now the exception, not the rule, and from Battersea Park the cyclist has triumphantly progressed until even the sacred ways inside Hyde Park are thrown open unreservedly to him. He has crossed the Alps and surveyed the Pyrenees, traversed Europe and penetrated to Peking ;

and from all this he has developed a literature of his own to which travellers like Foster Fraser, poets like Richard Le Gallienne, and artists like Joseph Pennell are delighted to contribute. Clubs such as ours require no words of apology or commendation. They afford opportunities of pleasant social intercourse, and the periodical club rides serve to give healthy exercise and to present a wholesome change of ideas to all who are wise enough to take part in them. I venture to say that there are many places of interest within a radius of thirty miles from this room which many of us would never have visited but for the club pilgrimages. It is a theme upon which I should like to dilate, but even if I were more competent to do so than I am, it would be unnecessary to an audience who, I am sure, regard it with as much enthusiasm as I do. Gentlemen, I give you the toast, prosperity to the — Cycling Club.

AN ANNUAL "HOUSE-DINNER."

XC.—THE FIRM. [*Proposed by the Senior Employé.*]

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice-Chairman, and Gentlemen,—

I perceive by the programme that it devolves upon me this year to propose to you a very important toast, and one which it requires some courage and firmness to undertake. I mean the health of the firm with which we all—or nearly all—have the pleasure of being associated. For many years I have been in the employment of Messrs. — and —, in a very responsible position, and have had many opportunities of observing them in their personal as well as in their business relations. In their presence on this occasion, gentlemen, I will not dilate upon the many acts of considerate kindness and liberality of which we are all conscious, and of which they may well be proud—and they would themselves object to my doing so. But I am sure we all can recall some kindness, some act of encouragement, which has lightened our way in business. The Firm, any large firm, has a great responsibility committed to it, and the happiness and contentment of the employés are two very prominent factors in the sum of their enjoyment, as well as in the sum of their success. Human nature being constituted as it is, every man likes to receive some personal recognition of his work outside

the merely commercial one of receiving his stipulated salary for his stipulated duty. We all know how pleased a young man is if, when he has done his work well, he is praised, and how wretched he feels when he is blamed. The consciousness that his good service is not lost sight of or ignored gives him a more directly personal interest in making himself efficient and indispensable to his employers. We can imagine the pleasure the partners of a firm feel—and now I am not speaking personally of any firm; be they lawyers, publishers, merchants, or brewers, the partners of any firm feel pleased—when their business succeeds. When the lawyer gains his case, and the publisher makes a hit, when the merchant makes a *coup*, and the brewer a “cooper” of more than usual excellence; a firm rejoices in such an event; that is natural, but it means much more when all the servants of the firm rejoice as well. Some firms, we know, take all the credit to themselves, and ignore or affect to be unaware of the share which the employés have had, perhaps, in the initiation of the business, certainly in its conduct to success. This is not our case. We feel that our efforts are appreciated. We like a little praise now and then to encourage us; and let me say—speaking as a man of experience, and as one who has had many men under him—that a few words of praise may make all the difference between a willing hand and head, and perfunctory service.

I am certain that mutual esteem and consideration are the corner-stones of the building, of the firm building up, of a business. No master will be so well served as he who is loved and respected, whose censure is just, whose criticism is strict, and whose praise is not parsimonious. Neither master nor man should demand the always unvarying letter of the bond, nor exact cruelly the pound of flesh. There are ways of winning voluntary service which is worth far more than paid service, and the firm that can attach such to itself, not only by justice, strict and impartial, but by kindness and well-timed liberality, will have assistance which money cannot purchase and which years will not wear out. Gentlemen, to such a firm I believe we belong, and in that belief I call upon you all respectfully, gratefully, and dutifully, to drink health and prosperity to the Firm of Messrs. — & Co., and thank them for giving us such a pleasant “outing” to-day.

XCI.—REPLY TO THE FOREGOING TOAST. [*By the Senior Partner present.*]

Mr. Vice and Gentlemen,

Being the chairman on this occasion I cannot address myself ; but I have a pleasant Vice ready to listen to me, and perhaps to prompt me. I am—and I speak also for my partners—we all are very sensible of the kind manner in which our health has been proposed and received. It is true, as Mr. — said just now, that mutual consideration and esteem are the corner-stones of every business house, and we are delighted to accept his assurances that in our case they exist.

There is one point in the speech just delivered which I must touch upon, and that is the responsibility of the Firm in the matter of the employés. They are not children, and they would in my opinion resent any interference. They might say to us, Mind your own business ; we are yours from nine till five or six o'clock, but after we leave your house we are our own masters. So far as the outside life of our men is concerned, so far as their pursuits and amusements are concerned, we do not accept any responsibility. Of course, if we found that those pursuits or amusements were derogating from, or in direct opposition to, our business, it would be our duty to warn the individual that he must conform to our practice and wishes, and give up one or the other of the opposing pursuits. But within all reasonable limitations we recognise their right to absolute independence in their private relations as clearly as we recognise it in the case of any other of our friends.

We entirely accept the responsibility for our employés during office hours. We wish you to understand that we have your interests at heart as well as our own. We welcome any development of energy gladly ; and though we do not in every instance think it our duty to pat the employé openly on the back for doing *his* duty, yet we mentally note, and when opportunity offers we will openly proclaim our sense of that gentleman's worth in some way or other. Be assured that you are all noted. Very little escapes us, and many times we have, with pleasure, intimated our appreciation of your efforts for the benefit of the house and for each other.

We are pleased that we can annually enjoy our holiday together as we have to-day ; and now I will not detain you longer. There are many other toasts to come, I perceive, so I will at once resume my duties, thanking you for the toast which has been proposed and received in a manner highly gratifying to the Firm.

XCII.—THE EMPLOYÉS. [*Proposed by the Head of Department, or Junior Partner.*]

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice-Chairman, and Gentlemen,—

The toast I have now to propose is a very important one, next in importance, indeed, to that of the Firm, whose health we have just responded to. In all large houses there must be a head and hands—just as in the human body we have a directing brain, and limbs to perform what the superior brain directs. But unless the hands are *en rapport* with the head, unless the limbs at once answer to the direction of the intellect and do as they are directed, they are of no use. The man then is like a machine out of gear: he must retire from business—he is no good in business.

On the other hand if the brain directs wrongfully, the man is said to be vicious and criminal; and in that case he is a nuisance to society and must be shut up. So to have a, humanly speaking, perfect man, or a perfect machine, the head must be clear, and the limbs or hands must be in good working order. This is the secret of success—honesty in direction, obedience in action; and this in a great measure has been the reason of our Firm's success: the manner in which those employed have carried out the instructions issued by the head.

It has been a matter of great satisfaction to the Firm during the past twelvemonth to mark the steady increase in the business, which they attribute partly to better times, but chiefly to the attention and diligence of those gentlemen in the business who have carried out the suggestions and directions issued by the responsible partners in the house. To the Employés the Firm are much indebted, and in proposing their healths I wish to couple the toast with the name of Mr. —, and to thank all the gentlemen for the zealous manner in which their various duties have been performed.

XCIII.—REPLY TO THE TOAST OF THE EMPLOYÉS.

[*By the Senior Clerk.*]

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice-Chairman, and Gentlemen,—

I am sure all those employed by the Firm of Messrs. — and — have reason to thank Mr. — for the very kind way in which he has spoken of them. We are all grateful for much kindness, and our annual dinners are always looked forward to with much pleasure, and always looked back upon with a feeling of contentment. As regards the efforts of the gentlemen in the house, I can answer for it that they have all endeavoured to do their duties, to the best of their abilities, willingly and conscientiously for the benefit of the house. A great deal has been done, and we are glad to think that the balance-sheet shows a good round sum on the right side. So far as our efforts have contributed to this result we are heartily glad, and we are pleased in any case to find that the old house for which many of us have worked for so long is prospering. We trust that our efforts in the future, if we are permitted to meet another year to hear the result, will be at least as satisfactory to all parties, and that the mutual esteem and regard which influences all in the house will remain even more firmly cemented. Gentlemen, in the name of the Employés I thank you for your good wishes and kind expressions concerning us.

XCIV.—THE VISITORS. [*Proposed by the Vice-Chairman.*]

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—

Before we separate I would ask you to join with me in drinking the health of our Visitors. It has been a great pleasure to us to be able to offer them our hospitality, and we owe them this meed of thanks for the compliment they have paid us by their presence, and for the geniality and good feeling which they have contributed to make this occasion such a success. Many of the Visitors are already old friends, and all the others, we hope, will yet become so. [Some graceful allusion should be made to, at any rate, the more prominent individuals invited.] To all of them we are much indebted for preferring our invitation to the many others which they doubtless received

simultaneously with our own, and I know you will join with me in an expression of thanks and cordially drink the toast of their good health.

XCV.—REPLY TO THE TOAST OF THE VISITORS.

[*By one of them.*]

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice-Chairman, and Gentlemen,—
The toast you have so cordially honoured is but the culmination of a long series of kindnesses and courteous attention which you have lavished on us to-day. We have had a most delightful experience, and it might well puzzle a far sager head than mine to discover why one word of thanks should be due from you to us, for having availed ourselves of the opportunity to enjoy ourselves so much. If the obligation is so great as Mr. — kindly suggests, I can only say that for my own part I shall be only too happy to confer it again, and rejoice to think that I can earn the title of benefactor so pleasantly. In all sincerity we are very much obliged to you for honouring this toast so warmly and for the generous hospitality of which it marks the close. If the criterion by which to tell a good host is that his guests enjoy themselves, you may claim to have graduated with honours in the school of hospitality, for enjoy ourselves we one and all have done. In the name of the Visitors I thank you very much, and heartily congratulate you upon the success of the function at which you have honoured us by inviting us to assist.

XCVI.—THE LADIES. [*Generally proposed by the Youngest Bachelor present.*]

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—

I rise to ask you to charge your glasses that you may do honour to the most important toast that it is possible to propose at any feast of reason and flow of soul, namely, the toast of—The Ladies. I don't know why this toast should be put so near to the bottom of the list, unless it be that the gentleman responsible for preparing the list is under the sad delusion that woman is inferior to man. I hold such an assumption to be a gross libel upon our

mothers, and sweethearts, and wives, and sisters, and cousins, and aunts. Gentlemen, I believe in the equality of the sexes. If women are inferior to men in certain respects, they are superior to them in others, and to avoid any animated discussion on a point which, after all, is largely a matter of opinion, I may safely say that the honours are pretty equally divided. A profound remark was uttered once by Mr. Gilead P. Beck which may be appropriately recalled. When the "Golden Butterfly" had brought him wealth beyond the dreams of avarice, he was besieged by people who had suggestions to offer as to how he might most advantageously dispose of at least some portion of his pile. Among the visitors was a lady who believed in the equality of the sexes and desired financial assistance for the propagation of her views. She entertained him at some length with a disquisition on the subject, and wound up by asking how it was that women had never yet produced a Shakespeare. "I don't know, I am sure," Mr. Beck replied. "I was under the impression that they had produced all our greatest men." There is a wealth of wisdom in that answer. I really think, gentlemen, that if we had a few young women in the House of Commons, instead of the many old women who at present make such a mess of things there, it would be all the better for the government of the country. But I am dropping into politics, so before the chairman pulls me up I will just say that whatever opinion gentlemen present may hold on the subject of Home Rule for Ireland, we must all be of one mind in thinking that all women should be home rulers all the world over. I must confess that I have not yet mustered up courage to subject myself to home rule, in the matrimonial sense, but I strongly recommend my bachelor friends to try the experiment. It is true that a Greek poet has told us that :

Two happy days a married man may prize :
The day he weds his wife, the day she dies ! "

but then I don't believe that poets are the best judges of domestic matters. Gentlemen,—“The Ladies !” God bless them.

XCVII.—THE LADIES. [*Proposed by a Guest.*]

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—

Will you permit me to rise and say a few words upon a subject upon which I am confessedly ignorant, but in which—or shall I say whom—I take a great interest. The Ladies! Perhaps I may not be accounted a fair judge, as I am still youthful and entirely inexperienced in the ways of womankind. But I hear a good deal of them. We are indebted for the greatest charm of many of our social pleasures to the society of ladies. I need not quote Sir Walter Scott's verses to assure you of the benevolence and kindness of women, nor need I refer to the proverbial fickleness of the sex—which, I believe, to be a quite unfounded aspersion.

I am sure there is nothing that I can say in favour of the ladies which your hearts will not endorse. We are indebted to them for much happiness, and we look upon them, in some respect at any rate, as superior beings. More than all else on them, on their virtue and strength, depends the future welfare of the kingdom. The mothers are the wealth and prosperity of a nation. They bring up the children, and upon them the fate of future generations must depend. Gentlemen, there is nothing that I can say in praise of the ladies which each of you has not already anticipated. I am sure you all equally with myself respect them, and love them too, perhaps, or rather, one of them. So I call upon you all to drink heartily to the Ladies. Bless them! Knowing what blessings we possess in our sweet-hearts and wives, I call upon the youngest bachelor present to return thanks for the sex.

XCVIII. — REPLY TO THE TOAST OF THE LADIES. [*By the Youngest Bachelor.*]

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—

The position in which Mr. — has placed me is rather an awkward one. He confessed just now that (though I believe he is some years my senior) he knew nothing about the sex to entitle him to propose their health! Now what can I, at my time of life, have to say, except to thank you in the names of the whole of the fair sex throughout the world, for the very nice way, the very charming manner, in which the toast has been responded to.

If only the Ladies—not all the ladies in the world, of course, and certainly not the giantess from the Alhambra—could have been present, they must have been struck with the graceful terms in which their health was proposed, and I am afraid they would be equally disgusted at the tame manner in which I am returning thanks. I assure you, I may assure them, that this diffidence is only observable in their absence. Were any ladies present I could from the inspiration breathe forth new songs of praise of them; in their absence the founts of oratory are frozen—I am chilled. But if the party were lighted by their presence, the rills of rhetoric and the flow of fancy would supervene, and I could, thus warmed by their presence, return suitable thanks for them.

As it is, however, gentlemen, my tongue refuses to say all I think. I thank you sincerely on behalf of the charming Ladies, collectively and individually, whom we have the happiness to call wives or sweethearts; and for the vast array of female beauty outside of our lives I thank you too, for they are the true consolers of mankind, and “little if at all, lower than the angels!”

PENNY READINGS.

XCIX.—ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN, OR PROMOTER.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

Before we commence the programme, which I perceive is a very attractive one, I will introduce to you the ladies and gentlemen who have so kindly come forward to amuse us. Their names are on the programmes, and I am sure when you have heard the various pieces and readings you will agree with me that the selection has been wisely made. “Good wine needs no bush,” so I will not detain you by enlarging upon the performers’ merits, but come at once to my chief object in addressing you.

We are here this evening to assist an excellent work, for the profits of these readings during the winter will go towards defraying the debt upon the schools, or to some equally necessary fund. We have set aside therefore a certain number of seats at sixpence each—not from any desire for exclusiveness, but because we wish to pay our debts. The majority of places cost only one penny,

To the occupiers of those seats programmes will be sold at one halfpenny ; to the sixpenny places at one penny each. We think this will meet the wishes of all. But we are quite open to new suggestions, and the committee will gladly entertain any such. In conclusion, I may express a hope that you will use all your efforts to make these meetings a success. Many people in the district have few, if any, means of amusement open to them, and except at the public-houses have little opportunity for meeting or recreation. I think I can count upon all who hear me to assist us in our good work.

And now I will make way for the programme, and request Miss —— to favour us with the solo she has so kindly consented to play as an overture for us this evening.

C.—AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE EVENING.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

Before we separate I have to request your attention and suffrages, which I am sure will be given very willingly when I tell you I wish to pass a vote of thanks to the ladies and gentlemen who have so ably and successfully given their services this evening. You will, I think, now be able to judge of the correctness of my anticipations. We have had a most delightful evening ; our interest and our laughter have, I hope, proved to the performers who have so generously and kindly come here to-night that their efforts are highly appreciated, and that we are only desirous to see them again. On their behalf I may say that they thank you for your kind and discriminating applause, which they value highly ; and for my own part I cannot thank my friends too much, whether on the platform or in the audience, for their efforts to make the evening, both financially and on the stage, such a success.

Ladies and gentlemen, next week we hope to be able to provide you with another excellent programme, and trust it will be as pleasing and creditable to all concerned as this has been. All has gone smoothly and well. Ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much. I am sure you will all sleep well after such a "lullaby" as we heard just now. If you please we will now conclude by singing "God save the King," and we request your assistance in the chorus.

SECTION VII.

MISCELLANEOUS TOASTS.

THE PRESS—LAYING A FOUNDATION-STONE—A SCHOOL
FEAST—A NEW RAILWAY LINE.

CI.—THE PRESS. [*Proposed by the Chairman at a
Dinner.*]

Gentlemen,—

In asking you to honour the toast of The Press, I am discharging a duty which is particularly agreeable, but to that quite honest statement I must hasten to add the confession that to make a speech upon the subject at all commensurate with its importance is a task beyond my powers. The subject is so vast and appeals to us all from so many varied points of view that I suppose it would be impossible for the most practised orator to deal adequately with even a single aspect of it in the brief limits of an after-dinner speech. The man who invented printing did much more than devise a scheme for the readier multiplication of copies of the Gospels; he found the lever to set free a force fraught with the most tremendous consequences for the whole world, and what the ultimate issue of that primitive mechanical appliance may be, no one can estimate.

But it is the Newspaper Press of this country that we have more particularly in mind in proposing this toast, and we may confidently assert that it compares favourably with the Press of any other country. Nothing astonishes me so much in modern journalism as the mass of information that is daily and nightly poured forth from our newspaper offices for our amusement and edification, and in

spite of the speed at which it is produced, presented with literary charm and a singularly accurate perception of the relative importance of things. With the necessity for rapid composition has come a facility of expression that is truly remarkable, and, even in the case of leading articles, which from the stress of circumstances have been written so shortly before the paper has gone to press that their authors have had no time to see a single proof, it is seldom that the most critical eye can detect evidence of the difficult conditions under which they were evolved. Where the conditions have been less onerous the results are scarcely less surprising to me. I can remember to have heard elegiac leaders read from the pulpit by scholarly divines, who rejoiced to find such thoughts so expressed in daily papers, and in spite of the mass of books that are daily offered to glut the appetite of a cultured population, one cannot but feel a pang of regret when one thinks of the quantity of literary genius buried in the files of almost every newspaper.

Then, again, our Newspaper Press is something more than merely literary. Upon the whole it is singularly incorrupt. It is true that from time to time aspersions are made upon what is known as our financial journalism, but these aspersions are rarely levelled against the daily papers, where it might be supposed that venality would be most difficult of prevention. We can find plenty to congratulate ourselves upon in the fact that it is so difficult to bribe our journalists. And if this is true in financial, it is even more true in political matters. There are plenty of occasions when enemies of England would be only too glad to influence even one newspaper of standing to give expression to their views, and there are not wanting occasions when unlimited funds could be forthcoming to produce the desired result. But I can remember no occasion when in that sense an English newspaper was found to have its price, and for that alone we cannot honour it too much.

And, lastly, there is the use our papers make of the great power they have acquired by their freedom. Surely it is a good use. Whenever the deserving poor require compassionate assistance, whenever subject races are groaning under the oppression of tyrants, whenever there is a grievance to be remedied or a wrong to be put right, our Newspaper Press may be relied upon to step into the breach and divert into the necessary channel enough of the irresistible force of public opinion to sweep away the offending matter. Individual mistakes it may be an easy matter to cite, but that collectively our Press is characterised by purity of motive, disinterestedness of

purpose, and general incorruptibility I do most confidently affirm. And with equal confidence I call upon you to endorse this very imperfect eulogy of our free and national institution by drinking heartily the toast of The Press and the health of its representatives, coupled on this occasion with the name of Mr. —.

CII.—REPLY TO THE FOREGOING.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—

Although I am one of the humblest devotees of journalism I should be quite unworthy of the cult I profess if I did not, at any rate, express my warm thanks for the toast you have just honoured. Believe me, however inadequately those thanks may be expressed, they are absolutely sincere. That I regard journalism as an honourable profession goes without saying, since I am devoting my own life to it, and I wish that I were better able to do justice to a subject which I have so much at heart. Regarded only as a network of commercial enterprise, our Newspaper Press is an amazing thing. I suppose it would be impossible to compile statistics that would at all approximate to the truth, but the sums of money invested in the newspapers of the United Kingdom and all that goes to make them up, must exceed the sums invested in any other business. When one thinks of the purely commercial side of it the imagination is bewildered; the paper and the machinery that makes it, the type and the machinery that sets it, the ink and the machinery that prints from it; then there is the enormous advertising and distributing trade, and even then one has not begun to consider the contents of the newspapers themselves; the telegrams from all quarters of the globe, the special correspondence, the literary matter, with all its various departments of politics and literature and finance. Truly, it is a marvellous and intricate institution, of which no single man can do more than comprehend his own little department in it thoroughly.

It is the fashion to regret the decay of what is called Bohemia, but if the old Grub Street, whose name conjures up so vivid an idea, was really one of the leading thoroughfares in its capital, that imaginary land need not be very deeply mourned. The men who aspire to lead in journalism now require qualities which would fit them for leader-

ship in almost any profession : intelligence, courage, both moral and physical, daring, tact, promptitude of decision, readiness of resource, and nicely-balanced judgment make up a tolerable list of attributes for any one man to possess : yet they are all demanded by the Press from its professed exponents, and, besides all these, there must be the seeing eye and the pen of the ready writer if success is to be achieved in Fleet Street nowadays. The tendency of journalism is towards literature, and literature condensed to the very essence of the things discussed. It is an old saying that literature is a hard mistress, demanding much from her votaries, but there is little to grieve at in that ; what's lightly won is seldom well worth having ; the pre-eminence to which our Newspaper Press has attained, has been attained only by infinite pains, and that, I suppose, is why we value it so much. You have shown that you value it by your cordiality in drinking this toast, and while, personally, I am undeserving of the honour of being called upon to respond, I am glad to have so public an opportunity of declaring my allegiance to my mistress, and, in her name, thanking you for the compliment you have paid her.

CIII.—LAYING THE FOUNDATION-STONE OF A MUSEUM. [*Speech by the late Lord Coleridge.*]

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

The toast I have to propose is—"Prosperity to the — Museum." Prosperity to the Muscum means, I suppose, prosperity to those things with which the Museum is connected. Science, which is the knowledge of the universe of God ; Art, which is, I suppose, the imaginative representation of the whole of the creation which can be seen, and is capable of being represented ; and Literature, which, in its very narrowest significance, contains all that the best and ablest men of all times and all ages have ever thought and said. Now that is a light and easy short subject to be dealt with in an after-luncheon speech, especially by one who is for the most part wholly unfit to deal with any part of it. But I advocate most heartily such an institution as I understand this Museum to be, because it would be narrow pedantry and absurd to suppose that all the multitudinous forms of art, although they have been nobly handled by the great masters who have gone before have been exhibited by them. The slightest

reflection reminds us that the literature of Carlyle, Browning, Tennyson, Matthew Arnold, and Cardinal Newman shows that the riches of the English language are not exhausted, and that its resources are still unfathomed. Therefore, gentlemen, it is with very great pleasure that I propose this toast to you. I believe that in the institution of a Museum of this kind is to be found the greatest possible advantage to the whole country with which it is connected. I suppose that no one can doubt that the surest way towards the cultivation of charitable judgment and moderate views is the real cultivation of true knowledge. I suppose that nobody can doubt that the "inevitable stream of tendency," as it is called, whether we like it or not, whether we desire it or not, is throwing day by day more and more power into the hands of the people. I suppose, therefore, it cannot be doubted that the wiser, the more charitable, the larger, and more moderate, popular opinion can be made, the better for all of us. Now, I am sure that in an institution such as this there is, at all events, a means, perhaps not the complete means, but a means to such an end. Every piece of really scientific information which has been added to the treasure house of mankind is, or may be, an inestimable blessing. It is not, of course, by the institution of the Museum alone, by its lecture-rooms, by its teaching, by its library, by its classes, and so forth, that the end I am pointing out can be achieved. Possibly it is not by any combination of ends in the power of man alone to bring about such a result; but I am certain that institutions such as we have joined in increasing to-day ought, and I believe will have an important function in this respect. It will teach men, or it should teach them, from a scientific point of view how little we all are, how little the earth we stand upon and tread upon is compared with the universe, of which it forms an insignificant portion. That surely is a lesson which should humble every man. History should teach us what great men there have been before us, and what pigmies many of the persons who think themselves great men in the present day are, compared with those who have gone before. There is another lesson that the history of humanity, if it is rightly read, will teach us, viz., not only the wickedness, but the folly of harsh and severe judgments, and of extravagant language. If there is anything which can be gathered from the perusal of the history of literature, it is to teach a man to think humbly of himself, so as to become more and more capable of self-control, and therefore more and more fit to govern others.

CIV.—A SCHOOL FESTIVAL. [*Spoken by the Leader of the Excursion.*]

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

Before we leave this place where we have all spent such a delightful day, I want you to give three cheers for Mr. —, by whose courtesy and kindness we have been enabled to enjoy ourselves so much. He is not present with us now, but I hope he will understand how fully we appreciate his kindness in permitting us to come here and picnic and run races, as we have all done to-day. We are glad to think there has been no damage done, and that you have all, boys and girls, behaved well and had plenty of rational enjoyment. Such good conduct will, no doubt, influence Mr. —, if we again are desirous to have an afternoon in his beautiful park. His kindness deserves more acknowledgment than my poor words can give it, but I hope you, by a hearty cheer, will tell him how much you all value his goodness. I won't ask you to wish him many returns of *this* day; still we may wish him heartily long life and every happiness. Now, boys and girls, three cheers for Mr. —, and long life to him!

Now there is another thing—and I hope you are not all hoarse after those cheers, because I may want some more before I have done. There are some ladies and gentlemen present who have, at some inconvenience, but very willingly, come down with us to-day to assist us in our sports, and to make things go smoothly. They have also subscribed very liberally for the prizes you have won, and helped us all very materially to enjoy ourselves. We owe them a vote of thanks, and I am sure you will all unite with me in thanking our visitors very heartily for what they have done, and for the kind way they have assisted us all day in making this little treat pass off so well. Now then, all together—three cheers for the Visitors!

CV.—A SCHOOL FEAST.—[*Distribution of Prizes for Athletic Sports.*]

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

I have been requested to give away the Prizes this afternoon, and I have very great pleasure in doing so, particularly as I have watched the sports with much interest, and feel that the winners deserve them. Some of the candidates have run their competitors very closely in

one or two events, but the judge's decisions have settled the questions to the satisfaction of all parties, I believe, and nothing is now wanting but the distribution of the Prizes.

I am greatly in favour of Athletics. Such exercises as we have witnessed this afternoon are calculated to bring out all the hardy qualities of boyhood. The lungs are exercised, the muscles are strengthened, and we have, besides, several moral qualities developed. We learn to accept defeat without ill-feeling, and to obtain victory without any ungenerous triumph over failure. Those who have won this time must *persevere* if they wish to keep ahead ; just as in your lessons application is necessary to those who desire to keep well up in the school.

Our whole life is a race—a struggle in which the weakest will fall behind. There is such competition nowadays in everything, that intense application is needed to ensure success. So I trust all you young people who hear me will remember how you have gained your prizes, viz., by doing your best. Now, if you carry this idea out in your lives generally, and do your best—not *the* very best, of course, for others may beat you, but your best according to your abilities and opportunities, you will be astonished how quickly you will come to the front. St. Paul bids us so to run that we may obtain a Heavenly crown. So let us run, striving for the mastery over all evil that besets us, and running away from it, not in fear, but in the strength of our hearts and bodies. No man can be strong in combat or running unless his heart be right, and in the right order for work. So in moral, as well as in physical exercises, the *heart* must be right. We must train ourselves with temperance and sobriety for the great race of life, and endeavour as far as possible to keep well in front of the evil that pursues us, so that we may gain the crown of life—the Eternal Prize.

I will not longer detain you. Remember, if you can, my advice. Do your best, and leave the result and the verdict to the Judge. If you fail, you will not be disgraced at any rate, and you have all a chance of winning, for the Prizes are many in the world to come. Now, if you please, I will hand the prizes to the successful competitors.*

* In giving the prizes, a few words of congratulation should be addressed to each winner.

A NEW RAILWAY LINE.

CVI.—TURNING THE FIRST SOD. [*By the Chairman.*]

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

We have to-day been assisting in a very great work, one that will make its mark in the future. We have to-day inaugurated the railway line which is to bring us within measurable distance of prosperity, a feeder to our population and a carrier of their produce. The benefits conferred by a railroad can scarcely be estimated. The line once so dreaded is now sought by landholders. When the railways were first brought before the public it was deemed impossible that they could pay or serve the country. Now we know to the contrary. Landowners who drove the surveyors off their property lived to regret their action, and the people use them till millions of money are earned annually.

We hope the short line which we have this day commenced will prove of great benefit. Let us see what it will do. In the first place it will convey you all at cheap fares to the sea-side daily in summer ; so within an hour you will be on the sands, and sporting with the waves of which your children and, may be, many of your poorer neighbours, have never had a glimpse. That is one benefit. Then to commerce and trade it will be an immense boon. You will have your letters more rapidly delivered, and your supplies from town more quickly forwarded. Speed, convenience, and a thriving population will all be the results of the railroad. Before concluding I will propose to you a toast which I imagine all present will join with me in drinking. That toast is prosperity to the — and — Line. We have had some little opposition to deal with, but I think I may say that all that is overcome. The Bill has passed, to-day the first sod has been turned. A great work has been initiated, and we may hope within a very short time to see the locomotive rushing between this place and the great county centres, carrying in its train hundreds who will gladly date their prosperity and increased comfort from the opening of the line. Ladies and gentlemen, I hope you will unite with me in drinking the toast of Prosperity to the — and — Railway, coupled with the name of Mr. —, who has all along taken such a useful and leading part in the promotion of the line.

only of maintaining, but, as far as possible, increasing the prosperity of this famous (or ancient) and enlightened borough (town or city). Some of those who have honoured us with their presence on this interesting occasion may not have had the good fortune to be natives of this borough, or to be otherwise connected with it; but they too, I doubt not, will heartily join us in our good wishes for its welfare. But those of us who were born here, or who have lived here for any length of time, have every reason to drink this toast with the utmost enthusiasm. We are proud of our town—proud of its history and of the men who have made it. Like other places we have our seasons of trade depression as well as our seasons of trade revival; but I venture to say that in no other community will you find men more willing to take the rough with the smooth, or more determined to face adversity with courage or prosperity with moderation. We hear much of foreign competition, and no doubt the difficulties of holding our own in industry and commerce are more serious nowadays than they used to be. Still, we manage to get on, and I believe that in the future, whatever disappointments or reverses may be in store for us, we shall be able to break the record of the past. Gentlemen, you may possibly think me too much prejudiced in favour of my native town, but I can assure you that local sentiment is the bed-rock foundation of the wider patriotism, and there is something to be said in favour of the man who declared that taking all things into consideration he would rather be hanged in his native Little Pedlington than die a natural death anywhere else. Gentlemen, I ask you to drink to the Prosperity of the Town and Trade of —.

SECTION VIII.

TEMPERANCE AND BLUE RIBBON MEETINGS.

TEMPERANCE SPEECHES—THE BLUE RIBBON—TOTAL AB-
STINENCE—VARIOUS ADDRESSES.

CIX.—ADDRESS BY A MEMBER OF THE BLUE RIBBON ARMY

My Friends,—

I have come up here this evening, and venture to address you, though I am conscious of my inability to do justice to the cause we all have at heart—I mean Gospel Temperance. Remember that. We put the Gospel first, and we wish you all to understand that we mean total abstinence from intoxicating liquors.

Some may, hundreds do, openly proclaim the advisability of permitting "moderate drinking." Now let us look at this moderate drinking. What is it? Can we lay down any line and say, I will not pass that; I will not drink more than two or three glasses of wine or beer all day? No; we know we cannot do so. Would we parley with a declared enemy, with one who we knew was ready to take advantage of us? We should estimate ourselves at a very low figure if we did so. But I think I can prove to you all, by figures and facts, that even what is called very moderate drinking is delusive and harmful, on the authority of Dr. Richardson, who was an eminent total abstainer. I need not quote such authorities as Sir Henry Thompson and Dean Farrar, but will pass at once to the physical aspect of the question, putting aside

for the moment the moral bearings of the case. Now suppose a man be very regular in his drinking as well as "moderate," and that he consumes a pint of beer, half a pint of wine, and perhaps a glass or two of whisky and water. These beverages contain, says Dr. Richardson, six ounces of alcohol. The effect of this is to make the heart beat 18,000 times a day more than it ought to do, and it has to raise what would be equivalent to nineteen extra tons weight one foot; and so on as we diminish the quantity we will diminish the extra action of the heart. Therefore, the less we drink the better for us physically. Too much exercise is detrimental to weak hearts. Drinking is equally detrimental to heart and body and soul.

But look at the moral side of the question. Is not every one here who indulges in drinking aware that, when under the influence of wine or other liquor, he will do things which he would never have done if perfectly sober? Have we not often heard the expression, "I'm sure I never would have said so (or done so) unless I had had a glass too much?" Is not intoxication pleaded daily in our courts as excuse for all kinds of offences, from murder downwards? Are not we aware that wine heats our blood, and incites us to excesses which we need not particularise? If a fall from purity in a woman is the cause of the poor creature taking to drinking, in despair, as is sometimes the case, is not drinking on the other hand the cause of man's sinning, and perhaps inducing the woman to sin too? Can we, as men, ask ourselves these questions, and not reply in the affirmative? Some will meet me, no doubt, with the argument that if wine be permitted by the Bible, and even offered in the Sacrament as a holy pledge, it cannot be wrong. But will anyone in his senses maintain that the sip of good wine partaken of in Holy Communion is a drinking of wine? No one can assert that.

Well, then, as to the wine of Scripture. We read that water was turned into wine, *pure, good* wine—there was no alcohol or adulteration in it. It was even purer than the ordinary expressed grape juice, and it is the present loaded and mixed wines and beers which do so much harm. Men—and alas! women—are poisoned, intoxicated, by drugs. Pure beverages will hurt no one in moderation, I believe. But we must take things as they unfortunately are, and until we can obtain pure drinks let us abstain.

Another point we find in Scripture is that all *mixed* wines are condemned. There the Bible helps us, and we find that drunkenness is condemned as a deadly sin. That cases of drunkenness are on record in the Bible,

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is a fact ; but they are recorded with other sins, and it is no argument in favour of drinking to say it was permitted in circumstances different entirely from those now obtaining. Many sins are recorded in the Bible for our warning, so that we may avoid them. The priests were specially forbidden to use strong drink. There is no time when Satan is more likely to assail us than when we are under the influence of drink. Our passions are then excited, and we fall !

There is yet another point. We must, or at any rate I may say we *should*, abstain for others' sakes. I heard an opinion expressed the other day to the effect that a man is more worthy of regard who can say "No," and stop when he has had enough. It is better to use and not abuse. Yet even to such an one I would say, "Granted that you are able always to restrain yourself—and that is granting a great deal—if you can by example and abstention make a convert and one drunkard's home happy, will you not abstain entirely ?" Those who abstain for example's sake are even better and more self-denying Christians than those who are moderate. "For the sake of the weak they become as weak, that they may gain the weak !"

I want you to do this of your own free will, and come forward to take the pledge honestly, and with a full conviction of good. No children should be forced to take the ribbon in my opinion. They should first be convinced of the necessity for abstinence, and then made wearers of the Blue, and members of the Gospel Temperance Union. Pray for help, cut off the drinking, and you will find rest unto your souls !

CX.—ANOTHER SPEECH ON TEMPERANCE.

My Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen,—

I am glad to see such an assembly here to-night, because I have some very important things to say, and I hope to receive many of you into our Band of Total Abstiners this evening. I want you—we want you—to look at this movement for Gospel Temperance fairly, and ask yourselves whether you think drinking does you any good, morally or physically. I do not want to force you to come here, or to remain to take any pledge, unless you can conscientiously do so. But, nevertheless, I will put a few facts before you. Firstly, do you require to drink ? Can

any of you present tell me honestly that you find any wine, or spirit, or intoxicating liquor necessary for your well-being? Does it make you better, warmer, or less liable to feel hungry? If so, there may be something to say in its favour. But it does not. There is no human function performed by strong drink. A debilitated frame may derive a certain satisfaction from a glass of wine or brandy. But does the benefit remain? I think not. You may receive a temporary "fillip" from the use of stimulants, but the reaction will be correspondingly great, and depression will ensue. Good food will do much more for you than alcoholic liquors. That is a fact.

It is a curious but easily ascertained fact that in all organisms, water—not any stimulant—is the necessary fluid for the support of the body. There is no doubt about that. Moreover, when any such stimulant is introduced there is a certain change in the organisation. Now alcohol has a great affinity for water, which makes up two-thirds of the human body. When we use alcohol we are actually putting into our bodies an agent which will in time dry us up, and absorb the fluid of our tissues. This will account for the great dryness of the drunkard's mouth and stomach, and his craving for cooling liquid, water, etc., which will restore the balance of fluid to the exhausted body.

It is a great mistake to suppose that alcoholic drinks are beneficial. Rheumatism, gout, and many other diseases are attributable directly and indirectly to indulgence in wine. The ideas we have concerning the strengthening powers of alcohol are in the main, if not entirely, fallacious. It may be at times necessary to administer brandy as a medicine, as doctors administer strychnine or other poisons in certain circumstances; but no one who has studied the subject will tell me that alcohol in any form is beneficial to the ordinary human being. It causes temporary excitement and destroys the appetite for food, and by food the body is warmed and kept alive. Let any of you take a couple of glasses of whisky and water in the middle of the day, even *after* food, and tell me the result. Are you more fit for work, or not? Can you go back to work after that luncheon hour, or dinner hour, and settle down as well as if you had had no alcoholic liquor? You know you cannot. The senses are dulled, the hand is not so ready, the brain is chilled if the body is warmed. You wish for some excitement or other, not quiet work at your desk. And then comes the reaction. The appetite is gone: tea, supper, or perhaps dinner, supervene, and you have no wish to eat. You are sleepy or dull, and this is the result of alcohol. In an exaggerated form such in-

dulgences make a man tipsy, and I need not inform you how helpless and disgusting is a soddened and tipsy man—what a fearful object is a tipsy woman !

The conclusions which have been come to concerning alcohol are summed up by an experienced analyst :—

- (1) It gives no strength.
- (2) It gives no warmth.
- (3) It builds up no tissue.
- (4) It reduces the "tone" of the body.

In the face of such facts will any wavering one persist ?
 " Oh, House of Israel, why will ye die ? "

Come, then, and take the pledge and wear your badge, not as some do, only to remove it in the hour of temptation, but to let it remain in your coats a token of sobriety and self-denial, an example to others of the benefits to be derived from Gospel Temperance and Total Abstinence.

CXI.—THE BLUE RIBBON—WHAT IS IT ?

My Friends,—

I am here to-night to explain to you what the Blue Ribbon means, and how and why it ought to be worn. Many of you I see are already members of the band, but I hope before we part this evening many who have perhaps come here from mere curiosity will accept the pledge and wear the ribbon when they have heard something concerning it. Now let me speak of the pledge itself.

The most familiar form of the Blue Ribbon pledge is: " With malice towards none, with charity for all, I, the undersigned, do pledge my word and honour, *God helping me*, to abstain from all intoxicating liquors as a beverage—wine, beer, and cider included—and that I will, by all honourable means, encourage others to abstain." Tens of thousands are taking the Blue Ribbon and the pledge; hence it seems to me that one of the most important things temperance workers have to do is " to explain the Blue Ribbon pledge." What it means is this, and my earnest desire is that it may remind every one who has donned the Blue Ribbon of the serious responsibility they have now undertaken. My friends, temperance, instead of being put in place of the Gospel, is now made a part of it. Tem-

perance now comes forward and bids you, "Friend, go up higher." God is still helping on the work, and now He has put it into the hearts of some of His servants to teach us how it is to be done. We are now to work "*with malice to none.*" We temperance reformers have always had a high and holy mission; we have always been called upon to exercise courage and determination, and now we must work "With malice to none." Our calling now entails the laying aside of "all malice and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, and to come out boldly; but, '*with charity for all,*' suffering long and being kind, envying not, not behaving ourselves unseemly, not seeking our own, not being easily provoked," and even as far as lies in us, thinking no evil, but having "*charity for all.*" We may well exclaim, "What a high standard! the taking of such a pledge is a serious matter." It is: but it is also true that according to what we have or have not done we shall at the final day of account receive our reward or punishment; hence it may be our duty to take the Blue Ribbon, and remember we take this pledge saying, *God helping us*, we will do this: we may feel that of ourselves we can do nothing, but God will help. If it had not been that His hand was in the work, the great results which are now known would never have been brought about. Many very earnest petitions have been sent to His throne, and these have been answered, and we have an aim, a plan, an endeavour, a method of work, which is being carried out with malice to none.

This famous badge of blue is so simple that even a child may wear it, and the most fastidious cannot object to it, but still it is enough to show that all who do take it have adopted the Gospel Temperance pledge, and do not intend to be ashamed of their colours, but do their part, willingly and readily giving friendly assistance to others to "go up higher;" it may be higher than they have gone before, higher in helping to make smooth paths, higher in helping to remove stumbling blocks, higher in joining in the heart-felt song—

‘Hail my comrades with the signal, the emblem of the true,
The nation is awaking to the wearing of the blue.’

The nation truly is awaking, but how? It is no longer, "Friend, go up higher," but now it is, "Friend, *come up* higher." I recommend you to do this, as I have done it myself; I call upon you to assist others to come up, for—

" Across the land from sea to sea
 We're falling into line,
 Forsaking all the gilded haunts
 Of sin, and shame, and wine ;
 Awaking to a better life,
 To proudly dare and do."

There are still some few who remain outside our appeal, and we need to know how to deal with them. To these we have a message, among these we must work, and if we would know *how*, let us remember, and endeavour in all our dealings with them to fully carry out our motto, "*No malice, true charity, asking the help of God.*" Appeal to them : Friend, come up higher ; I will do my best to show you the way, and God will help me. Friend, join the ranks of those who are nobly standing side by side. Friend, give us your help towards bringing some one to a turning point, which may be the means of leading them to seek after that peace of God which passeth all understanding. Friend, think what your example is doing, think that you have an influence with some one that we have not. Think is it not your duty to assist us in telling those who need to be told ? Here is an act for you to undertake, and—

" Heaven's smile will rest upon you
 When the *grand* deed is done."*

CXII.—CARDINAL MANNING ON TOTAL ABSTINENCE.

His Eminence said he was quite sure that if they were not all red-hot in their determination to do everything they could for the League of the Cross, they would not have come there on such a night, but it might be well to remind them of the reasons why they were working so hard. It was because the drink traffic at this moment was a national shame, a national folly, and a national danger. We were a Christian people, and a civilised people, but nevertheless it was not the poor Chinese, nor the poor Hindoos, nor the poor Mahommedans who drank to drunkenness, for by their laws or religion they were all bound to drink no intoxicating drink, and as a rule they did not. Drunkenness was to be found in the Christian and civilised world, and he maintained that it was a great shame that

* A portion of the above is taken from the *Temperance Chronicle*.

that which was a brutal vice, which embrutes and bestialises men and women, should be found, not among poor heathen, but among the Christian and civilised people of the world. That which was a great shame in the Christian world was a special and burning shame upon Englishmen, Irishmen, and Scotchmen—those who made up the British Empire—and for this reason, there was not a country in the world into which Britons went where they did not carry with them intoxicating drink, and, what was almost worse, a trade in opium was promoted which destroyed races of poor uncivilised people. A Christian people ought to carry the benedictions and graces of Christianity and all that civilisation could do to refine and elevate uncivilised nations, but they carried a plague and pestilence instead of Christian civilisation. They knew the condition of people at home. There were 120,000 deaths in every year arising from intoxicating drink, and if there were that number of deaths, how many hundreds of thousands were there of those that were diseased unto death and did not die? What a wide-spread plague of disease of every kind hung like a pall over the population of this country through intoxicating drink. It was not one in ten of the number of sick persons who died. They might multiply this number of 120,000 tenfold, and those practised in medicine told them that at least seven in every ten of the worst diseases were directly or indirectly caused or aggravated by the use of intoxicating drink; and as some of the most eminent of them had said, not only by intoxicating drink in excess, but intoxicating drink in what people call moderation. After alluding to the progress of the Total Abstinence movement, his Eminence said he hoped they would do their best to work with the United Kingdom Alliance. They were met to celebrate Father Mathew's birthday, which was a moveable feast, for he believed it was on the 12th of this month that Father Mathew founded a number of temperance societies in London, but with the exception of one or two they became extinct, because there was no organisation to back them up. What the United Kingdom Alliance was, as far as the political part of the work was concerned, the League of the Cross was morally and spiritually, and he exhorted them to enrol their names among the members of the League.

CXIII.—SPEECH BY PROFESSOR BLAIKIE.

Professor Blaikie, who received a cordial welcome from the meeting, remarked that this was not the first Gospel Temperance Meeting he had addressed by any means ; but it was the first he had addressed in Edinburgh, and it was the first meeting of this magnitude that he addressed on that particular aspect of temperance. He liked the combination of the terms "Gospel" and "Temperance." The word "Gospel," as the hymn which had been so sweetly sung indicated, meant "good tidings," and "Gospel temperance" he understood to mean that temperance was part of the good tidings given to them. It was the glory of Christ's Gospel that what it offered to men it offered fully, freely, and at once, "without money and without price." If that were true of all the blessings of the Gospel, it must be true of temperance if it were one of these blessings ; so that he understood the Gospel of Jesus Christ made offer of full and free emancipation from the evil and guilt of intemperance, and a full and free offer of the blessings of temperance to all who would come to Christ and receive these blessings at His hand. In fact, it was just the fulfilment of the words of the prophet, which our blessed Lord applied to Himself—"The spirit of the Lord hath anointed me to preach deliverance to the captive." It was a proclamation of deliverance to the captive, and embraced the prisoner in the captivity of strong drink. It was a very wretched captivity—a very hopeless captivity in many cases. It was a captivity out of which the unhappy captive had often sought to deliver himself, and had often appealed to his fellow-men to deliver him, and made the appeal often in the most plaintive and touching terms and tones, but in vain. The jailer had been too strong—a stronger man who had had him in bonds had not been willing to let him go, and a stronger than he had not yet come by him to his deliverance. He believed this proclamation of temperance was part of the blessings of the Gospel, and was offered, in consequence, even to the person who had been most hopelessly sunk under the power of a love of drink. The Lord, who was high in might and power, to whom all power had been given in heaven and in earth, was able to accomplish the deliverance of the captive just as much as He was able by a word and touch to cleanse the poor leper who, in all the loathsomeness of his disease and hopelessness of his outcast position, came to Him and said, "Lord, if Thou wilt Thou canst make me clean." That was what he believed they might understand by Gospel Temperance. It did not

merely offer him deliverance from this one form of sin, but from all sins through Christ and the power of His Spirit. It was a means whereby they would be kept from temptation, and supported and delivered if temptation did come. They all knew how pressing and vehement were the efforts made to get persons who wished to be temperate to indulge themselves in places and in ways which were very apt to make them intemperate. They knew for instance that some young men could not resist the temptations of their comrades to drink. In pledging themselves they gave an answer once and for all, and it ought to be respected. A pledge was not to be taken in an easy and off-hand way, but should be taken with a due sense of the solemn promise made, as, according to the words of Scripture, "Better was it not to vow than to vow and not perform." He urged upon all who took the pledge to respect it. Many people told them that drinking was going out, and in certain forms, no doubt, it was; but in other forms it was coming in. He was sure that during the last generation there was a great deal more drinking in certain circles than there was forty years ago, and a great deal more drinking among women than there was when he began his ministry about forty years ago. They had not the least reason to draw bridle—work had yet to be done, and with increasing activity and vigour. Professor Blaikie went on to tell about the drunken condition of a seaside resort not twenty miles from Edinburgh, where he had been staying. The air was full of health, but the curse of drink was in the place, and during the short period he had been there four deaths had occurred which must be ascribed entirely to intemperance. He trusted this movement begun in the city would not evaporate on the removal of a temporary influence. Let them try to make it permanent—make it extensive and intensive. He hoped that God might abundantly bless the labours of His servant among them, who had been instrumental in doing so much in other places, and that they should have cause to thank God for his visit.

CXIV.—LORD CLAUD HAMILTON, M.P., ON THE
TEMPERANCE QUESTION.

The Chairman said this was rather a remarkable year—the year of the Temperance Jubilee. They no doubt were aware of the history of its beginning with the seven men of Preston. It was a very small and humble commencement, but with the blessing of God it had spread throughout the land. He thought this was a glorious achievement to have been brought about within the period of a human life, and he believed two of the seven men were still alive to witness the result of their efforts. During his political life he had seen many changes in the public mind, and especially in the opinion of what might be called the enlightened classes. He was in Parliament at the time the temperance question was introduced in the form of the first Permissive Bill, and did his best to promote it, but the opposition was so great that the members who supported it were looked upon as fanatics, and were received with derisive laughter. This state of things went on for some time, but by putting forth sound arguments they made a great impression, and began to be listened to with attention, and gradually the annual motion was treated in a more sensible way, and, in fact, so important had it grown that the question had great power at the time of Parliamentary elections. He might even say that temperance had become one of the powers in the State. The progress it had made was truly wonderful. Take for example the various religious bodies, and they would find that the Cardinal Archbishop, Wesleyan and Baptist ministers, and the representatives of almost every religious sect invited each other to co-operate and act as brothers in the war against drink. One of the most eminent physicians of the day, Dr. Andrew Clarke, had come over to their side and given a direct denial to the theory that alcohol was a nutritious food. Dr. Richardson and Dr. Norman Kerr were both early converts, but let them look how one after another the profession had come over to their side. It was therefore proved that alcohol was not a good thing, except perhaps occasionally as a medicine, just as poisons were. Hanlan had publicly stated that he was positive he should not have been nearly so successful had he not been a total abstainer. He was pleased to say that marvellous progress had been made in the Army and Navy, to whom we owed so much of our national greatness; and it gratified him exceedingly to be able to say that this change was mainly due to two ladies—Miss Weston and Miss Robinson. In

the Army they were not at first received very graciously by the officers, but they soon saw the enormous advantage of having temperate men under their control ; and now both these ladies were well received both by the officers and the men, and the immediate result of their labour was the establishment of a temperance canteen in every barrack, and at all the sea-ports in Europe there had lately been opened places where sailors who wished to be away from the drink could stay without fear of temptation. All this was the outcome of the labour of these two ladies, and it induced him to remind the fair sex of their great influence, and to beseech them to use it in the cause of temperance. It had no doubt been gratifying to every Englishman to hear of the brilliant success of our Army and Navy in Egypt. They must have read with pleasure of the vigour with which our troops attacked the enemy ; but he would say there was an enemy at work within our very midst doing tenfold more harm than the Egyptians could do. It was a domestic foe in every way, and they ought to be stimulated with a determination to crush that foe. Of course, that remained with them, and he had every confidence, seeing that so much had already been done, they would go on in the same way until the enemy was completely destroyed.

SECTION IX.

RULES FOR THE FORMATION OF LOCAL PARLIAMENTS.

THERE are in the United Kingdom at the present time a number of Debating Societies calling themselves "Parliaments," which have been organised to give members the opportunity of ventilating political and social questions on the basis of Parliamentary procedure.

These Parliaments have in many instances been very successful in developing debating talent, and in discovering the party preponderance in certain districts, and therefore in indicating the feeling of the country upon important questions of the day.

It has appeared to the publishers that a brief *résumé* of the chief points to be attended to in the formation and conduct of such Parliamentary Debating Societies may be usefully included in the present volume; and they have accordingly caused the following rules to be compiled, principally from actual "Parliamentary Procedure" as set forth by Sir Erskine May, the Clerk of the House of Commons.

The Rules and Regulations have been revised and, when necessary, adapted to local parliamentary necessities by an experienced hand. The assistance here given will, the publishers believe, be found useful to any one engaged in mimic legislative debates.

The following Rules or "Standing Orders" are based upon experience:—

It will be necessary to have a book in which every member must enter his name and address when he pays his subscription for the year, or for the session, as may be decided by the Council.

The OFFICERS of a Parliamentary Debating Society should be as follows, and must be members of the society.

- (1) The Speaker.
- (2) Chairman of Committees (or Deputy-Speaker).
- (3) Clerk of the House.
- (4) Deputy-Clerk and Secretary.
- (5) Treasurer.

The Treasurer, and Deputy-Clerk and Secretary, may be paid officials in the discretion of the Council ; but in that case they can have no vote in a division. The Clerk of the House and Chairman of Committees may be permitted to vote ; but, as a rule, it is better if no officials be allowed to go into the lobbies.

The COUNCIL should consist of seven or nine members, the officers of the House being *ex officio* members of it. The Council may advisedly be selected from different political parties, as evenly balanced as possible. The Council should be elected on the first night of the session, and continue in office until the first night of the ensuing session. A fresh election of Council and Officers will then take place.

The President of the Council is elected by the Council, who in a body have the control of the funds through the treasurer, and the inspection of the accounts, etc., rendered by him. A vacancy in the Council may be filled up by that body at the first meeting after the announcement of such vacancy to the House in session. Five out of nine members form a quorum, and so on in proportion.

Notices of a Council meeting should be sent out by the Secretary at least one week before the date named for the meeting. (For this and other reasons it is advisable that the Secretary be a paid official and responsible to the Council.)

FORMATION OF A MINISTRY.

The "Ministry" should be formed by the elected Leader of either political party whose means and opportunities are sufficient to do so. The Government should at first, if possible, be of the same politics as the actual Government of the country. But they may be compelled to resign by the rejection of a Bill, or a Vote of Censure, etc., being carried against them.

The Leader of the Ministerial Party will choose his

colleagues, and will nominate them to various posts corresponding, when practicable, to those actually in the Cabinet. He must find subjects for debate, compose the "King's Speech," and introduce Bills and other matter for discussion—in correspondence with the Leader of the Opposition.

When the Ministry resigns (or is defeated) the Leader of the Opposition will take office if prepared to do so ; or he may permit the hitherto existing Ministry to resume the business and carry on the government until the end of the session, if his party be not sufficiently strong to conduct it.

The MEETINGS of a Local Parliament may be called weekly, at an hour most convenient to the majority of the members. This time should be fixed upon at a preliminary general meeting of the members, who can at the same time elect the officers, etc., of the Parliament. The Regulations proposed should be submitted to this preliminary meeting and formulated after full discussion.

The subscriptions being paid, and the members elected being present at the specified time, the first proceeding will consist in *reading the Minutes of the previous meeting*. This must always be done first after the Speaker has taken the chair ; or, if considered desirable, the Speaker may put the question to the House that "the Minutes be taken as read." This will save time.

After the reading of the Minutes of the previous meeting, the introduction to the Speaker of newly elected Members, and the names of newly proposed members, will be recorded.

The newly elected members should be accompanied by their respective proposers and seconders, and should advance up the floor of the House to the Speaker's chair, and be formally introduced to him by name, and as the Members for the Constituencies they have severally elected to represent.

When all the new members have been introduced, then those whose names have been submitted, with their addresses, and the names of their proposers and seconders, are read to the House, and they will be elected by the Council at the following Council meeting if no objection be lodged, and may be introduced as new members at the following meeting of the Parliament.

When any member presents himself at the table to pay his subscription, the Clerk or Secretary shall request him to enter his name and address and Constituency in the Members' Book, and the Secretary or Clerk shall enter his name in the "Constituency" Book and if the place have

a member already allotted to it, the member must choose another place to represent.

Members take their places to the right or left of the Speaker, according as their party is in or out of office. The front seats on the right are occupied by the Ministry, those on the left by the Leaders of the Opposition.

After the introduction of, and the proposals for, new members have been completed, Notices of Questions and of *Motions* should be handed in, and either read by the members who wish to bring them forward, or handed in *in duplicate* to the Clerk of the House at the table. He will then read them, and the Secretary will see that the Ministry have the questions to answer by next meeting. The *Motions* will then be proceeded with in the same way, and when those of which previous notice had been given have been answered or debated, the adjourned debate (if any) will be resumed.

The above is the mode of proceeding which will be found perfectly suitable to Local Parliaments and in accordance with usage. The following Rules will be found useful in these Debating Societies, and also in consonance with the practice of the Imperial Parliament.

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR LOCAL PARLIAMENTARY DEBATING SOCIETIES.

The **SPEAKER** is the controller of the House : all debate ceases when he rises, and his dictum must be accepted as final. He has a casting vote when parties are equal, and may give it either way, but experience teaches that he gives it to the "Noes." His duty is to keep the debate in the proper channel and to enforce the rules of the House. It is proper and customary to bow to the Speaker when entering or leaving the House, and no member or stranger wearing his hat must sit in the House in presence of the Speaker.

Members must not pass and repass between the Speaker and the member addressing the House.

No stranger must seat himself or be permitted to remain in any portion of the House set apart for members only.

When a member is in possession of the House all the rest should be silent, or at any rate no audible interruption should be made ; and no periodical should be read unless for information to be used in connection with the debate.

SPEAKING.—In speaking in the House a member must look to the Speaker and address him, and keep strictly to the point of discussion. He must not allude to previous debates that session unless he wish to move that a question be re-opened, or a decision be rescinded. He must then conclude with a motion to that effect.

When a Motion has been made and then seconded, after due notice having been given of the member's intention to propose any question for consideration, it is then put to the House by the Speaker ; but if the Motion be not seconded it is dropped.

A Motion, if unopposed, may be made without previous notice ; but if subsequently any one objects to it the proposer must withdraw it.

In the absence of the Speaker the chair will be taken by his Deputy ; but if it should happen that the Deputy Speaker is also absent, then the House must choose one of its members to the position. The nomination may be challenged, and a show of hands will decide the point, and so on till a selection be approved.

The Rules for DIVISIONS are those generally in force in the House of Commons, the Tellers being appointed by the Speaker ; and these gentlemen in pairs receive the votes as the members file in to the right or left lobby, according as they are "Ayes " or "Noes." The Tellers then respectively hand the papers to the Speaker, who reads the numbers, and declares which party has the advantage, in the usual way.

We can only thus indicate a few of the leading points to be observed in the formation and arrangement of a Parliamentary Debating Society. Every such society must be influenced more or less by local conditions, which will change ; but the chief points to be observed are touched upon above—the details can easily be filled in from any work upon Parliamentary Procedure.

SECTION X.

THE CHAIRMAN AND HIS DUTIES.

A CHAIRMAN is invariably appointed at public meetings, and in all social gatherings of a more or less formal character where speaking is expected. His duties, in the first instance, at public meetings will be briefly considered.

THE CHOICE OF A CHAIRMAN.

There may be some difficulty in the appointment of a chairman, and much will depend upon the choice. The individual chosen must have intelligence and readiness, and be capable of enforcing order and making the chair respected by all. A weak man in the chair is worse than nobody, because his authority, and the authority of his office, can be set aside by a strong mind in the audience, and the object of the meeting may be defeated. Therefore, it is very necessary to choose a really strong, firm, and well-read man, whose opinion will carry weight and whose appearance inspires respect.

When the meeting has assembled, the first business is the appointment of a chairman. One gentleman present may propose a friend, so may several others, and then the only way to decide the question is by a show of hands or voting. Some of the candidates may not be seconded, and then their chance is disposed of. Of course these remarks only apply to cases wherein no chairman is present *ex officio*.

The first duty of the chairman when seated is to state clearly and distinctly the objects for which the meeting has been called, or, if there has been a previous meeting, to have the minutes of the proceedings of the previous meeting read.

He will probably read the notice convening the meeting, and proceed to state his views upon the subject in his opening speech. The company present will then be in possession of the whole matter, and be able to speak upon the various questions. A motion will then be made and seconded, or, if it be not seconded, it is the duty of the chairman to inquire whether any one will do so, and then the question can be put and discussed.

During the discussion the chairman must keep his attention directed to the point at issue, and if the speaker on either side wander from the point or introduce personal or irrelevant matter, he must call him to order and to the subject before the meeting, which must not be lost sight of in a cloud of verbiage. The chairman will have to keep order, and, if there be much party feeling present, to repress any tendency to uproar or "unparliamentary" proceedings.

The subject having been discussed and the original mover having replied on the question, the votes or a show of hands will be taken in the usual manner. The chairman, unless a division is demanded, will decide whether the motion is lost or carried, and announce the same to the meeting. He may give his casting vote if he please; but unless the question be very important he will do well to abstain from voting, for one vote, unless the parties be equal, can do no good.

If an amendment has been moved to the original motion, the sense of the meeting on the amendment must be taken by the chairman, before the motion is put to the vote. The amendment, if carried, puts the motion aside; but it may itself be lost after all, for some may object to the motion and to the form of the amendment.

When the business has terminated, and all discussion has ceased, the chairman formally declares the meeting at an end, and leaves the chair. It is then customary for some one present to propose a vote of thanks to him for his conduct of the business, and this is seconded and carried as a rule without question.

The meeting may then be made "special," and various resolutions can be passed according to the terms upon which the Company or Society has been embodied. Another chairman may be elected, or the same gentleman can officiate if requested to do so.

The chairman of a social gathering has a different office to perform. He takes his place before dinner and holds it to the end of the evening; though it happens occasionally that as President of a Company he may preside at the dinner and move another gentleman into the chair

when the toasts come to be proposed, after grace has been sung or said. A vice-chairman is also appointed, and keeps the other or more distant end of the board under his sway.

IT IS THE CHAIRMAN'S DUTY to propose the usual loyal toasts of the King and Royal Family, the Services, &c., and to name the responders ; and also the " Toast of the evening," whatever it may be. If the company be convivially inclined he calls upon those present for a song, or for instrumental music, as may have been arranged ; and, generally, it is his business to keep order amongst the company by tact, temper, and good management, to preserve the harmony of the evening, and to see that no one exceeds the bounds of good taste. He generally takes wine with the guests, his intention to do so being intimated by the toast-master—if one be present—or by a waiter in ordinary circumstances. There are many little courtesies to be observed by a chairman which will readily suggest themselves to any one who occupies the position ; and he generally proposes the health of the vice-chairman before the meeting separates.

The disposal of the guests with reference to the chairman or president is made according to precedence, the Royal Family having the lead, unless a certain personage be bidden specially to be honoured, when he occupies the place on the right hand of the chairman, and the eldest representative of Royalty present the place on the left hand. The guest of the evening is always seated at the right hand of the chair, the next in honour on the left, and so on according to rank and standing, honoured guests being also seated near the high table, with notable members of the society or corporation in whose hall the dinner is given.

The chairman at a public dinner remains standing until all the guests are seated, and when he assumes the chair, after grace is said, dinner is served. He will be waited upon last, or at any rate he must see that the guests have all they require ; and to him all the guests must defer. When it comes to speaking after dinner, the chairman has the loyal toasts and the toast of the evening to propose. But in cases where there is no established form of speech he should say something appropriate, and if he can season his remarks with anecdotes so much the better. We remember once hearing the guest of the evening, when

proposing prosperity to the club or institution he was attending, make a loudly applauded and very amusing speech simply by recounting anecdotes of his University days. The speaker merely went from story to story, and sat down, after proposing the toast of—Prosperity to the Society, having said scarcely anything concerning it. Anecdotes, therefore, are very useful to speakers, and we would suggest to all chairmen a stock of such as will be suited to the company.

SECTION XI.

TOASTS AND SENTIMENTS.

LOYAL TOASTS.

May the King live ever in his subjects' hearts.

All our Nobles and all noble hearts.

Firmness in Parliament, valour in the field, and fortitude on the sea.

May all our Commanders have the eye of a Hawke and the heart of a Wolfe.

May the sword of Justice be swayed by the hand of Mercy.

Church and King.

May no true son of Neptune shrink from his gun.

May the hearts of our sons be honest and brave, and our daughters modest and pure.

May the enemies of England never meet a friend in Great Britain.

Rose, Shamrock, and Thistle.

MILITARY.

The British Army: firm in disaster, courageous in danger, and merciful in victory.

Every soldier a pleasant halt, and every rogue a long halter.

May British laurels never fade.

May the British soldier never turn his back to the foe.

Honour and the sword : may they never be parted.

May the soldier never fall a sacrifice but to glory.

British arms, and British hands to use them.

May the brow of the brave never want a laurel wreath.

The memory of the brave who fell at —.

May good leaders always have good followers.

NAVAL.

The British Navy : may it ever sail on a sea of glory, wafted to victory by the gales of prosperity.

The Sea : may it bring a spring tide of prosperity to England.

May the tar who loses one eye in war never see distress with the other.

May our seamen wear hearts of oak even if iron-clad.

May Content be our pilot in the voyage of life.

Here's to the tar that sticks like pitch to his duty.

The memory of Nelson and the brave

May rudders govern and ships obey.

Britain's sheet anchor—her ships.

Lots of beef and oceans of grog.

Sweethearts and wives.

Foes well tarred, and tars well feathered.

LOVE.

The spring of love and the harvest of enjoyment.

Love in a cottage and envy to none.

May lovers' vows never end in lovers' quarrels.

The rose of love without any thorns.

A health to all those whom we love,

A health to all those who love us,

A health to all those who love them that love those,

Who love those that love them who love us.

Love, liberty, and true friendship.

Laughing lovers and merry maids.

May we kiss those we please, and please those we kiss.

May the bud of affection be ripened by the sunshine
of sincerity.

May the wings of love never lose a feather.

The single married and the married happy.

The face that Nature paints, and the heart that knows
no deception.

Love to one, friendship to a few, goodwill to all.

Constancy and kindness : may they never be parted.

The lady we love, and the friend we trust.

May we have sense to win a heart, and merit to keep it.

Constancy in love, sincerity in friendship.

The fountain of love in all its purity.

The roses of love with the sweetbriar of chaste affection.

May the sparks of love brighten into flame.

MASONIC.

Our King and ancient craft.

All the Fraternity round the globe.

The Grand Lodge of England.

The Grand Lodge of Scotland.

The Grand Lodge of Ireland.

All well-disposed Masons.

To Masons and to Masons' bairns,

And women with both wit and charms.

To all that live within the compass and the square.
 To all Masons who walk in the line.
 To all ancient Freemasons wherever dispersed.
 May the Lodges in this place be distinguished for love,
 peace, and harmony.
 The absent Brethren of the Lodge.
 May the prospect of riches never induce a Mason to do
 that which is repugnant to virtue.

May Masonry flourish till nature expire,
 And its glories ne'er fade till the world is on fire.

May our actions as Masons be properly squared.
 The memory of the distinguished three.
 May every brother have a heart to feel and a hand to give.
 May covetous cares be unknown to Freemasons.

The heart which conceals
 And the tongue which ne'er reveals.

May no Freemason taste the bitter apples of affliction.
 To the innocent and faithful craft.
 May the gentle spirit of Love animate the heart of every
 Mason.

To our next happy meeting.
 May every brother learn to live within the compass and
 watch upon the square.

May the square, plumb-line, and level regulate the
 conduct of every brother.

As we meet upon the level may we part upon the square.
 Golden eggs to every brother, and goldfinches to our
 Lodges.

May every Freemason find constancy in love and sin-
 cerity in friendship.

FRIENDSHIP.

May the bark of friendship never founder in the well of
 deception.

May we be richer in friends than in money.

May we never want a friend to cheer us, nor a bottle to cheer him.

May old friends never be forgot for new ones.

May the lamp of friendship be lighted by the oil of sincerity.

Ability to serve a friend, and honour to conceal it.

May difference of opinion never alter friendship.

More friends and less need of them.

May the friend of distress never know sorrow.

Gratitude to our friends and grace to our foes.

May the hinges of friendship never rust.

May the friendly bosom never lack a friend.

May friendship smile in our cups and content in our loves.

A friend who is true—the sunshine of life,

To the secret and silent.

All absent friends on land and sea.

May our friends have no present burden, and futurity no terrors.

May we always have a friend and know his value.

CONVIVIAL.

May we always have a friend and a bottle to give him.

May our love of wine never make us forget our manners.

May we act with reason when the bottle circulates.

Cheerfulness in our cups, content in our minds, and competency in our pockets.

May the moments of mirth be regulated by the dial of reason.

Champagne to our real friends and real pain to our sham friends.

May the juice of the grape enliven each soul,
And good humour preside at the head of each bowl

Old wine and young women.

We met to be merry, now let us part wise,
Nor suffer the bottle to blind reason's eyes.

The feast of reason and the flow of soul.

All absent friends—God bless them !

A bottle to-night and business in the morning.

Oh, wine, the juice of the grape divine,
In thy good spirit may I ne'er forget mine.

Here's a health to all good lasses !
Pledge it merrily, fill your glasses,
Let the bumper toast go round.

The Ladies, and may they always share our joys and sorrows.

Drink, boys, drink, and drive away sorrow—
For perhaps we may not drink again to-morrow.

COMIC.

May your shadow never be less.

May every hair of your head be a mould candle to light you to glory !

May the chicken never be hatched that will scratch on your grave !

The early bird and the worm he picked up !

The nimble ninepence : may it soon grow into a florin.

May we live all the days of our lives.

A good Sovereign, and his image in our pockets.

The land we live in : may we never be sent out of it.

All true joys—but may we never be transported.

Here's to the maiden of blushing fifteen,
Here's to the housewife that's thrifty,
Here's to the flaunting extravagant queen,
And here's to the widow of fifty !

The three great commanders—General Peace, General Plenty, and General Prosperity.

The best doctors—Dr. Quiet, Dr. Diet, and Dr. Merryman.

The merry thought, and no "black legs" at table.

Here's to the poor heart that never rejoices.

Here's to the good man who kept a dog and barked himself.

Here's to the old bird that was not caught with chaff.

Our noble selves.

SPORTING.

May the end of the chase be the beginning of happiness.

The pack that a sheet will cover.

May our horses, hounds, and hearts never fail us.

May those who love the crack of the whip never want
a brush to follow.

The gallant huntsman of the —— country.

The brave sportsman !

The huntsman dear !

The sportsman that never beats about the bush.

The tender heart, and the brave rider.

The man that catches fair game and doesn't poach on
another's preserves.

Rod and line : may they never part company.

The gallant hound that never goes on a false scent.

Bat and ball. Long may they be honestly opposed in
the field.

The steady fisherman—who never "reels home" !

The Eleven : may they always be steady in adversity,
and upright beside the *wicked*.

May Britons never neglect sport for double-dealing.

Our "Masters : " may they always show us good game,
and deal well with their packs.

Reynard the fox !—Heaven preserve his family and
friends !

A strong arm and a steady eye !

May the sweet savour of our good deeds lie well when we have "gone over the last fence."

MISCELLANEOUS.

May opinions never float in the sea of ignorance.

May we never crack a joke and break a reputation.

May the pleasure of youth bring us consolation in old age.

May the sunshine of comfort dispel the clouds of despair.

All fortune's daughters except the eldest—Miss-fortune.

All tails but tell-tales.

Great men honest and honest men great.

Good trade and well paid.

May the devil cut the toes of all our foes,
That we may know them by their limping.

May we live to learn and learn to live well.

May we never murmur without cause, and never have cause to murmur.

May we never want a bait when we fish for conduct.

Love, life, liberty, and friendship.

Success to our army, success to our fleet,
May our foes be compelled to bow down at our feet.

May the mirror of conscience show us the face of truth.

May modesty rule our desires and moderation our wishes

May avarice lose his purse and benevolence find it.

May care be a stranger to every honest heart.

May fortune recover her eyesight and distribute her gifts.

May bad examples never corrupt youthful morals.

May poverty never come to us without hope.

THE PRECEDENCE OF GUESTS.

THERE are few topics of more interest to the dinner-giver than the order in which guests should be sent down to dinner, or the manner in which they should be placed. In ordinary middle-class society there is no difficulty. The gentleman who holds the highest social rank should take the hostess into dinner, and his wife should be escorted in ordinary circumstances by the master of the house. But if a younger, or even an unmarried, lady of higher rank be present, the host will escort her to the dining-room, for the precedence of ladies is of great social consequence.

It may happen that a hostess wishes to do honour to a new guest, and she may then ask him to take her into dinner to the exclusion of a person of higher rank who is an older friend ; but even if this be so, and it should not in strictness occur, the hostess should be careful to place the gentleman of highest rank upon her right hand at table. When it is only a question of precedence amongst gentlemen there need not be very much anxiety in the matter, particularly if they to whom the question may apply be unmarried ; but where there are married people, wives are frequently great " sticklers " for correctness, and may be exceedingly jealous of husband-rank. So it behoves all concerned to be careful to award the correct position. There is no precedence rule amongst the middle classes, and in such, the vast majority of cases, precedence must be ruled by social standing and intimacy—with reference to marriage and local position.

Married ladies and widows are entitled to the same rank amongst each other as their husbands would respectively have borne amongst themselves, provided such rank arises from a *dignity* and not from an *office* or *profession*. " By

rank through dignity alone is precedence conferred upon a lady." This is Sir Bernard Burke's rule upon the subject, and no better can be quoted. So even an Archbishop, his Grace of Canterbury included, can bestow no precedence upon his wife by his office, although he takes precedence of all peers, except such as may be Royal Dukes.

The Lord Chancellor, the second English peer, can only confer precedence on his wife according to the date of his dignity. The wives of Bishops, Esquires, or even of Privy Councillors, would have to yield the *pas* to a Baronet's or even a Knight's daughter, because she derives her rank from a "dignity," which the other ladies do not do. A Judge's wife similarly would only take precedence if her husband were knighted; and then she would rank after the ladies of Military Knights, of which wearers of "The Bath" come first, then the "Star of India," and "Michael and George," the "Grand Crosses" ranking before the "Knights Commanders." The wives of *Serjeants-at-Law* rank, by old statute, immediately after wives of Knights; for *Serjeants-at-Law* are dignitaries.

RULES OF PRECEDENCE.

Precedence amongst Peers depends upon the date of the creation of their titles. This rule is invariable, and governs all ranks of peerage, and also baronets and knights. The inexperienced must be careful not to confound *courtesy* titles with real peerages. The eldest sons of dukes, marquises, and earls are always called by one of their father's other titles. Thus the eldest son of the Duke of Athole is Marquis of Tullibardine; of the Marquis of Conyngham, Earl of Mount Charles; of the Earl of Courtown, Viscount Stopford. These are what are termed "courtesy titles," and their bearers take rank not as marquises, earls, viscounts, or lords, but as the eldest sons of dukes, marquises, and earls. The eldest son of a duke takes rank after marquises and before earls; the eldest son of a marquis after the youngest sons of dukes of the Blood Royal, and before the younger sons of dukes and before viscounts; the eldest son of an earl after viscounts and before the younger sons of marquises and bishops; the eldest son of a viscount, who has no courtesy title, but is styled Honourable, after barons', and before earls', younger sons; the eldest son of a baron, also styled Honourable, after earls'.

younger sons and before privy councillors and judges. The precedence of the wives is, of course, the same as that of their husbands. The younger sons of dukes and marquises are lords : Lord Claud Hamilton, son of the Duke of Abercorn ; Lord Albert Seymour, son of the Marquis of Hertford. It is a common error among those not *au fait* in the matter to omit the Christian name, and say Lord Hamilton, but nothing can show greater ignorance. The younger sons of dukes take rank after the eldest sons of marquises and before viscounts', the eldest sons of marquises after those of earls and before bishops ; the eldest sons of earls after those of viscounts and barons ; the eldest sons of viscounts after privy councillors and judges, and before the younger sons of barons ; while the eldest sons of barons take rank after those of viscounts and before baronets. Baronets take rank in order of their creation, and after them follow knights according to their orders ; serjeants-at-law, masters in chancery or lunacy, companions of the several orders of knighthood ; eldest sons of the younger sons of peers, baronets' eldest sons, eldest sons of knights according to their orders, baronets' younger sons (their wives following strictly the same precedence), esquires.

The daughters of a house almost always enjoy the same rank as their *eldest* brother, and follow immediately after his wife. Daughters of dukes, marquises, and earls are styled ladies ; Lady Georgiana Hamilton, Lady Elizabeth Campbell. It is a terrible solecism to omit the Christian name, and say Lady Hamilton or Lady Campbell, but it is one frequently committed, though "Lady Campbell" would naturally imply the wife of either a peer or a baronet. It is a very common saying that a lady can never *lose* rank, but this is not strictly the case. Thus, the daughter of a duke takes precedence of a countess ; but if she marry a viscount or a baron she takes her husband's rank, and the countess takes precedence of her. She only keeps her precedence by marrying *positive* rank ; thus, the daughter of a duke marrying the eldest son of a marquis or of an earl retains her own rank, and instead of being Viscount and Viscountess A., they are styled Viscount and Lady Mary A. When, however, her husband succeeds to his father's title and becomes a peer, she takes his rank and loses her precedence of birth. If, however, the lady is of the same rank, she takes the courtesy title, as in the case of a duke's daughter marrying a duke's eldest son, or of a marquis's daughter marrying a marquis's eldest son. Of course, a peer's daughter marrying either a baronet or an esquire always retains her own rank ;

an earl's daughter married to an esquire takes precedence of a baroness, but her children derive no precedence from it, unless in the rare instance of her being a *peeress in her own right*; for, as a rule, dignities descend only in the male line. The method of addressing a letter to a "lady in her own right," as the daughters of the three highest ranks of the peerage are termed, is "The Lady Mary Jones," "The" being placed on a line above the name. The daughters of viscounts and barons are Honourables; if married, letters are addressed to them, "Honble. Mrs. White," "Honble." being on a line above; and if unmarried, "Honble. Mary Green," "Honble. Georgiana Brown." In commencing a letter they are styled, "Dear Lady Mary," not "Lady Mary Jones." The wife of a baronet or of a knight is styled "Lady," like the wife of a baron; but in addressing a letter to the latter it is necessary to put "*The* Lady A.," while the prefix "The" is not used for the wife of a baronet or knight. A peer's daughter married to a baronet or knight is "Lady Jane Black," or the "Honble. Lady Black."

When a gentleman is created a peer, his children become Honourables, but it in no way affects the denomination or the precedence of his brothers and sisters, the patent making no mention of them, but only of his own heirs male. When, however, a peer's (let us say a marquis's) eldest son, who is married and has children, dies before his father—when the marquis dies, and his grandson succeeds to the title, the young peer's sisters and younger brothers are accorded the rank of the sons and daughters of a marquis, which would have naturally been theirs had their father lived to succeed in due course, but his mother retains simply her husband's courtesy title. This case applies to all peers; the rule is not extended to baronets. A peeress is styled Dowager when her son is the actual peer and is married. It is only the mother of the actual peer who is simply Duchess or Marchioness Dowager; if she be his grandmother—that is, if there are three peeresses of the title—she would be styled "Emily, Duchess Dowager," "Jane, Viscountess Dowager," "Louisa Dowager Lady A." If, however, the peer who succeeds her husband is not her son, but some other relative of the late peer, she is styled, "Mary, Marchioness of B.," "Katherine, Countess of O."

In addressing gentlemen who are sons of peers, it should be remembered that if in the Army or Navy the official title *precedes* the dignity; thus, "Captain Lord G.," "Colonel the Honble. J. T.;" but if they are in the Church the case is reversed: "The Honble. and Rev. Oscar H."

No written code of county or city order of precedence has been promulgated, but in the county the Lord-Lieutenant stands first and the Sheriff second. In London and other Corporations the Mayor stands first, and after him the Aldermen, Sheriff, Chief Officers, and Livery. At Oxford and Cambridge the High Sheriff takes precedence of the Vice-Chancellor.

There is a strange belief entertained by some persons that in his own parish a clergyman is entitled to take precedence of any one, no matter how much above him in the social scale. We need hardly say that this is a misapprehension. *A clergyman can claim no precedence whatever as such.* In cases where all the company are on a level, any distinction, no matter how slight and unimportant, is gladly seized upon, but the smallest shadow of social rank is sufficient to extinguish any such pretensions. In a cathedral town, where society is almost exclusively clerical, all the distinctions of clerical rank are, of course, minutely observed; and so in military, naval, and legal circles, the various professions have a distinct precedence amongst each other, which it sometimes pleases them to extend to their wives, though these ladies have no claim to it. However, in general society, should there be absolutely no precedence due to any of the ladies, it would, as some one must go first, be natural to give the precedence to the wife of a general, admiral, or K.C. who might be present. It should be understood that age has nothing to do with precedence, and that *a young, unmarried lady would take precedence of a married one of inferior rank.*

The arrangement of precedence between officers of the army and navy is very intricate. A naval post-captain ranks with a colonel in the army, but when he has served as post-captain for three years he ranks with a major-general. Naval precedence recognises admirals, vice and rear admirals, post-captains, commanders, lieutenants. Military precedence has generals, lieutenant-generals, major-generals, colonels, lieutenant-colonels, majors, captains, lieutenants. When an ambassador is present he takes precedence of all peers, being regarded as the representative of his sovereign. His wife enjoys the same precedence; but should he be a widower, with a daughter doing the honours of his house, she is not entitled to the rank of an ambadress, but would rank with an English countess. It is impossible to give any precise set of rules that will obviate doubt in every case, as special circumstances have to be taken into account—the greatest difficulty occurring where there is positively

no rank ; for where there is, the rules are clear and definite, and have only to be implicitly followed.

The only guide in the former case is that afforded by good sense and good taste. Where these are conspicuous in a hostess, her guests will not be on the look-out for causes of offence, knowing, as the old phrase has it, that "none is meant," and a little care and forethought on the matter will generally obviate any difficulty that may arise from the question of precedence in the middle classes, respecting which we have already made some observations.

The foregoing hints will give every one a correct notion of the precedence in society, and enable dinner-givers to arrange the table so as to offend none.

TABLE OF PRECEDENCY.

For purposes of reference the table of Precedency, as officially promulgated, is here appended.

The Sovereign.

The Prince of Wales.

Grandsons of the Sovereign.

Brothers of the Sovereign.

Uncles of the Sovereign.

Nephews of the Sovereign.

Ambassadors.

The Archbishop of Canterbury.

The Lord High Chancellor.

The Archbishop of York.

The Lord Chancellor of Ireland.

The Lord President of the Council.

The Lord Privy Seal.

The four following Officers of State, if Dukes :

- (1) Lord Great Chamberlain (on duty) ;
- (2) the Earl Marshal ;
- (3) the Lord Steward ;
- (4) the Lord Chamberlain.

Dukes according to their Patents of Creation :

- (1) of England ;
- (2) of Scotland ;
- (3) of Great Britain ;
- (4) of Ireland ;
- (5) those created since the Union.

Eldest Sons of Dukes of Blood Royal.

Four above State Officers, if Marquesses.

Marquesses in same order as Dukes.

Eldest Sons of Dukes.

Four above State Officers, if Earls.

Earls in same order as Dukes.

Younger Sons of Dukes of Blood Royal.

Eldest Sons of Marquesses.

Younger Sons of Dukes.

Four above State Officers, if Viscounts.

Viscounts in same order as Dukes.

Eldest Sons of Earls.

Younger Sons of Marquesses.

The Bishops of London, Durham, and Winchester.

The other English Bishops according to Seniority of
Consecration.

Four above State Officers, if Barons.

Secretaries of State and Irish Secretaries, if of the degree
of a Baron.

Barons in same order as Dukes.

The Speaker of the House of Commons.

The Treasurer of H.M.'s Household.

The Comptroller of H.M.'s Household.

The Master of the Horse.

The Vice-Chamberlain of H.M.'s Household.

Secretaries of State under the Degree of a Baron.

SPEECHES AND TOASTS.

Eldest Sons of Viscounts.

Younger Sons of Earls.

Eldest Sons of Barons.

Knights of the Garter, if Commoners.

Privy Councillors, if of no higher rank.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

The Lord Chief Justice of England.

The Master of the Rolls.

The Lords Justices of Appeal and President of the Probate Court.

Judges of the High Court.

Younger Sons of Viscounts.

Younger Sons of Barons.

Sons of Life Peers.

Baronets of either Kingdom, according to date of Patent.

Knights Grand Cross of the Bath.

Knights Grand Commanders of the Star of India.

Knights Grand Cross of St. Michael and St. George.

Knights Grand Commanders of the Indian Empire.

Knights Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order.

Knights Commanders of the above Orders.

Knights Bachelors.

Commanders of the Royal Victorian Order.

Judges of the County Courts.

Sergeants at Law.

Masters in Lunacy.

Companions of the Bath, Star of India, St. Michael and St. George, and Indian Empire.

Members Fourth Class of the Royal Victorian Order.

Companions of the Distinguished Service Order.

Eldest Sons of Youngest Sons of Peers.

Eldest Sons of Baronets.

Eldest Sons of Knights in order of their Fathers.

Members Fifth Class of the Royal Victorian Order.

Younger Sons of Younger Sons of Peers.

Younger Sons of Baronets.


Younger Sons of Knights in order of their Fathers.

Naval, Military, and other Esquires by Office.

There are three Orders confined to ladies, viz : the Order of Victoria and Albert, the Crown of India, and the Royal Red Cross, but members are entitled to no special precedence.

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